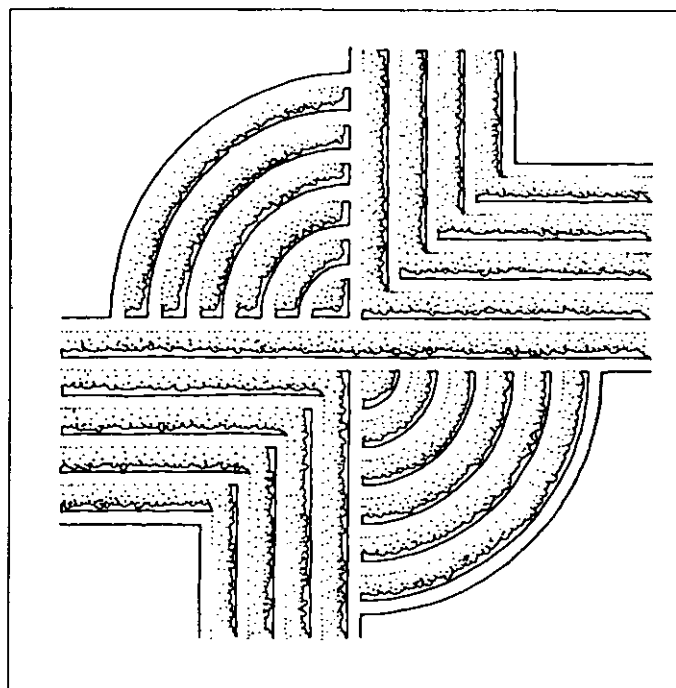


**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY  
EXCAVATIONS AT 38BU323 AND 38BU821, HILTON HEAD ISLAND**



**CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 158**

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## ABSTRACT

This management summary describes the initial results of archaeological data recovery undertaken for Seabrook Landing Partnership at 38BU323 and 38BU821 on Hilton Head Island in compliance with a S.C. Coastal Council Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Seabrook Landing Partnership and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Site 38BU323 consists of a main house and two slave row complexes associated with Seabrook Plantation. In addition, Seabrook Landing was used by the Quartermaster's Corp to receive supplies for the Union occupation of the island during the Civil War.

Site 38BU821 is a small Woodland Period shell midden site containing artifacts dating from the Savannah to the Deptford phases. Both 38BU323 and 38BU821 are located along the bank of Skull Creek.

This management summary includes a detailed description of the field methods used, information on the dates of the investigation and associated staff, site and feature plans and profiles, and detailed descriptions of the uncovered features.

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

A research design and proposal for data recovery excavations at 38BU323 and 38BU821 was prepared in 1989 and subsequently, was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for review and comment. This proposal was accepted and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was approved by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office on October 16, 1989. Since 1989, property development had been on hold until recently, when the project was re-activated in 1994.

The field investigations were scheduled for August 15, 1994 through October 22, 1994 at both sites (for a total of 48 field days). Dr. Michael Trinkley was the Principal Investigator for the project and Ms. Natalie Adams was the Field Director. Field Archaeologists included Mr. Ryan Boera, Ms. Nichol Lantz, Mr. Spencer Mullins, and Ms. Missy Trushel.

38BU323 was initially identified by Jim Michie in 1980 and was described as an eroded occupational area having both prehistoric and historic remains. The site was revisited by Chicora Foundation in 1986 as part of a reconnaissance survey of the island for the Town of Hilton Head Island. During this visit the site was recognized as the location of Seabrook Plantation, noting that it represented "one of the few remaining undeveloped plantation tracts; the site is also the location of a major Hilton Head Island landing and a major Union outpost with a ship repair facility" (SCIAA 38BU323 site form, on file). The site was identified as potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register, although both archival research and additional survey was thought to be necessary to the site's eligibility. Site number 38BU1149 has been erroneously applied to the site by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (1979:84). In this report, the original site number (38BU323) will be used.

Further survey to determine the site's eligibility for inclusion on the National Register was conducted by Chicora Foundation in 1988. During this survey a number of features were recorded including an extensive timber system and series of successive docks as part of ship repair facilities. Erosional remains of a tabby structure were also located. Michie (1980) originally gave these remains a separate site number (38BU337) which is now recognized as part of the larger Seabrook plantation complex. Five above ground shell middens were identified as well as four broad areas of interest. These areas include a small prehistoric scatter, a main house and kitchen area, the northern slave row, and the southern slave row and support structures. The southern slave row contained the remains of two tabby chimneys (Trinkley 1988:87-90). Trinkley (1988:91) argued that "[t]he site's long and varied history makes this plantation one of the more important sites on Hilton Head. The site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places at a national level of significance (largely because of the importance of the site to the military and because of the importance of the site to the military and because it served as a major housing area for freedmen during the war years)."

38BU821 was originally recorded during the 1986 reconnaissance survey of Hilton Head Island (Trinkley 1987) and was described as two small loci of shell midden eroding into the marsh. Although no artifacts were recovered, additional study was recommended to determine cultural affiliation and site boundaries.

The site was surveyed in 1988 by Chicora Foundation to determine its eligibility for inclusion on the National Register. A total of 18 shovel tests were excavated revealing the presence of shell midden up to 1.2 feet in depth. In addition, an adjacent plantation ditch had exposed a shell pit feature. The artifacts at the site revealed Early through Late Woodland occupation. The presence of intact deposits of dense shell, relative

abundance of pottery, and evidence of subsurface features all argued for the significance of the site.

### Site Environs

Sites 38BU323 and 38BU821 are situated on deep, well drained sandy soil overlooking Skull Creek and its marshes (Figure 1). The site specific topography is generally level, gently sloping inland from a shoreline elevation of about 10 feet MSL to inland elevations of about seven feet MSL. There is a small tidal creek which runs into Skull Creek just north of the prehistoric site (38BU821) which may be associated with a fresh water spring which, in turn, may account for the occupation of this site.

The historic plantation complex (38BU323) is located on high ground adjacent to deep water access, fitting South and Hartley's (1980) model for colonial plantation settlement pattern. Historically, Seabrook has served as the island's primary docking facility. Cotton was shipped from the Seabrook docks in the antebellum period and during the postbellum Seabrook as the landing for the steamships travelling between Savannah and Charleston. There has been a great deal of erosion along Skull Creek. Examination of Horizontal Control Data compiled by the National Ocean Survey reveals that at least 6 feet were lost in the 24 years between 1931 and 1955. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Cooperative Shoreline Movement Study reveals a loss of 200 feet between 1859 and 1983.

Vegetation at the sites was dense before they were bush hogged. Vegetation near the creek edge consisted of maritime forests and included primarily live oaks, pecans, and palmettos. The understory vegetation consisted of wax myrtle, yaupon, saw palmetto and poison ivy. Further inland vegetation consisted primarily of planted pine with a light understory of vegetation. Much of the site area along Skull Creek, today in planted pine, was previously cultivated. Oral history accounts suggest that the area was primarily used for truck farming, with crops like tomatoes dominating. As late as the 1960s this was a favorite swimming location for island residents.

### Historical Background

Preliminary historical research for Seabrook Plantation was conducted in 1987 during the initial survey of the property (Trinkley 1988) and is summarized below. Additional research is still underway by Chicora's intern, Gina Baylou (a graduate student in the Art History program).

The Lowcountry Council of Governments (1979:84) indicates that the 1600 acre plantation was purchased by William Seabrook from Mrs. Thomas Henry Barksdale in 1832. Peeples (1970:9) provides a more detailed account, suggesting that Thomas Henry Barksdale owned a 2600 acre Scull (Skull) Creek Plantation. Previous research by Chicora (Trinkley 1988), however, suggests that the Scull Creek Plantation of Barksdale may have no significance in understanding the Seabrook tract.

The first clear information is a deed, dated May 23, 1833, which documents the sale of 590 acres to William Seabrook by Joseph Wallace for \$8000. The description indicates that the property was "on the island of Hilton Head . . . bounded on the north by Scull Creek on the west by lands of Henry Talbird on the east by lands of Mrs. Phoebe Elliott and the south by lands of William Pope" (Charleston RMC DB Q10, p. 74). Phoebe (or Phebe) Elliott was the wife of William Elliott and the land referenced was Myrtle Bank Plantation. William Pope was "Squire Pope: and the land to the south of Seabrook's purchase would have been Cotton Hope. This deed indicates that Seabrook's initial (and perhaps only) purchase on Hilton Head, while relatively minor, was situated between Cotton Hope and Myrtle Bank. It also indicates that at the time Seabrook made his purchase, Pope had already acquired Cotton Hope. While it is possible that Seabrook acquired additional lands bordering his 590 acre plantation from Fyler, Curl, or Talbird, no record of any such transactions could be located in either Beaufort or Charleston.

Equally confusing is the conveyance of the Hilton Head property at William Seabrook's death in 1836.



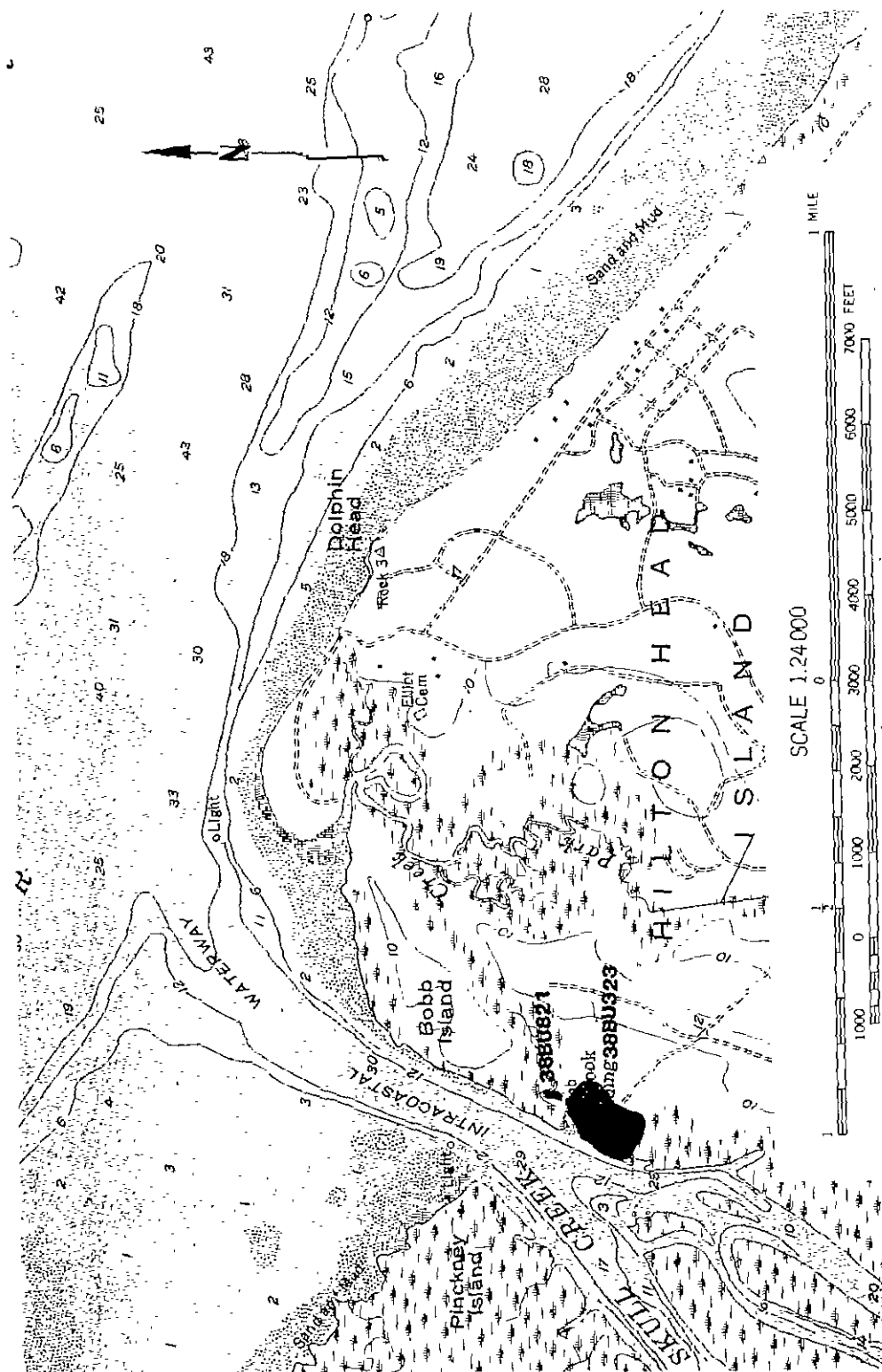


Figure 1. Location of 38BU323 and 38BU821 on the Parris Island USGS quadrangle map.

William's will, proved November 23, 1836 specifies,

Item I give devise and bequeath unto my Dear Wife Elizabeth Emma Seabrook, her heirs and assigns forever my plantation on Hilton Head purchased by me of the Revd. Mr. Wallace (Charleston Probate Court, Will Bk. 41, p. 536).

In addition, Seabrook provided that his wife should have the use of his "Mansion House and Residence" and whatever fields she can plant during her natural life, after which time they would revert to his estate.

Although William Seabrook was an extraordinary wealthy man for his time, with a personal estate worth \$376, 916, the inventory of his estate fails to even mention the Hilton Head property (Charleston County Probate Inventory Bk. H, p. 237). Its absence may be related to the property's location in Beaufort, rather than Charleston District, although normally the inventories include all personal property owned by an individual at the time of one's death. The inventories do not, however, list real estate. This suggests that the Hilton Head plantation was considered a very minor tract and may have been unoccupied at Seabrook's death. It is clear from his estate papers that his main residence was on John's Island (Seabrook is listed in the 1830 census in St. Johns Parish), although his Edisto Island plantation was a significant economic factor. The Hilton Head tract seems to have been little more than an investment.

Seabrook's wife, Elizabeth Emma, is shown in the St. John's Parish Census reports of 1840 and 1850. In 1840 she was shown with herself and five children in the family, as well as 36 slaves. In addition, the Estate of William Seabrook is also listed with one free person of color and 230 slaves (National Archives 1967). By 1850, Emma is listed, along with her son, John, who is listed as a "planter" (National Archives 1964). It seems that Emma continued to live on the Johns Island plantation, perhaps with her son managing her affairs as she grew older. There is no record of her ownership operation of the Hilton Head plantation. Nor is there any record of the sale of this plantation.

By the 1850 Census, James B. Seabrook (second cousin to William) is shown as a planter in St. Lakes Parish of Beaufort with \$8000 of real estate (National Archives 1964). Prior to this time James was listed in St. Johns Colleton with 95 slaves (National Archives 1967). This suggests that he acquired the plantation from Emma Seabrook sometime between 1840 and 1850. The 1850 Agricultural Schedules show James B. Seabrook with two plantations in St. Lakes Parish. One is listed as 1950 acres, valued at \$20,000, while the other is listed as having only 210 acres (probably more since no figure is shown under the category of "unimproved land" and the property is valued at \$8,000) (S.C. Department of Archives Microcopy 2, Roll 1, pp. 309-310). It is impossible from these records to determine which of the two tracts is "Seabrooks Plantation" on Hilton Head. The one not on Hilton Head was apparently in the Bluffton area.

The 1860 Census lists only one plantation for James B. Seabrook in St. Lakes Parish (S.C. Department of Archives Microcopy 2, Roll 3, pp. 281-282). The tract, consisting of 600 acres improved lands and 560 acres of unimproved lands, is valued at \$15,000 and contained \$1,300 worth of plantation implements. The property, in terms of output and general size is more similar to the larger 1850 plantation. It is shown as having \$5,300 of livestock, including 15 horses, five asses or mules, 40 milk cows, 14 oxen, 13 cattle, 32 sheep, and 15 swine. The plantation produced 1800 pounds of corn, 500 pounds of rice (which was one of the largest quantities for the area), 52 bales of cotton, 120 pounds of wool, 500 pounds of peas and beans, 15 bushels of Irish potatoes, 2000 bushels of sweet potatoes, 500 pounds of butter, 20 tons of hay, 60 pounds of beeswax, and 400 pounds of honey. The plantation slaughtered \$600 worth of animals the previous year. In addition, Seabrook lists orchard products valued at \$100.

If the large plantation from the 1850 census is the same tract of land as tabulated in the 1860 census (which would indicate that either Emma or James Seabrook purchased considerable additional lands), then it is useful to examine the ten year trend. The milk cow herd declines from the 1850 level of 80 to 40, the 120 head of cattle in 1850 is down to 13 head in 1860, the sheep herd is reduced from 60 to 32, and the 102 swine

reported in 1850 is down only 15 in 1860. The decline in livestock numbers, however, is not reflected in the value placed on the animals. In 1850 the livestock value was \$3,740, while it increased to \$5,300 in 1860. The value of animals slaughtered remained constant at \$600. Curiously, wool production remains constant and butter production increase from 100 pounds in 1850 to 500 pounds in 1860. While the emphasis on livestock declined from 1850 to 1860, the cotton production increased from 32 bales to 52 bales and rice cultivation was reported in 1860. There is an indication that Seabrook began moving away from livestock toward the cash economy of cotton and rice. The slave population of Seabrook fell from 118 in 1850 to 107 in 1860 (although presumably the 1850 figure reports on two plantations, while the 1860 figure reports on only one) (National Archives 1967).

James B. Seabrook's occupation of the Hilton Head plantation is further supported by the Joseph Baynard Seabrook Bible in the Charleston Museum collections (specimen 34.43). Pasted inside the front cover of the Bible is a handwritten note, signed by E.B. Seabrook and dated November 22, 1872,

This book was the family Bible of my grandfather, Joseph Baynard Seabrook of Edisto Island, whose name is printed on the cover. After the death of my grandfather, it passed into the hands of his youngest son, James B. Seabrook, who subsequently removed to Hilton Island - During the recent war, after the fall of Fort Walker on Broad River, the book was found by the Federal Soldiers on my uncle's parlor table (transcription in SC Historical Society Collection, File 30-04).

In spite of this, the 1860 census, which lists individuals by smaller enumeration districts than previously, does not list Seabrook among the 11 whites who were found on the island. Of the 11, only one male was listed as a planter, while three others were listed as overseers.

The property was described by several Union soldiers shortly after Hilton Head fell in November 1861:

[w]e mistook the whitewashed huts of the negroes for tents . . . that night we spent in Mr. Seabrook's store, after using the portion of the afternoon that remained to us after our arrive in endeavors to secure some of the cattle, pigs, and poultry (Nichols 1986:29).

[t]he groves of orange trees at Seabrook's plantation were very fragrant, and the ripe fruit was quickly disposed of as contraband of war (Caldwell 1875:29).

they [the Union forces] reached Seabrooks Landing on Mackey's [actually Skull] Creek at about 2 PM. At this point the retreating force had embarked in steamers for Charleston. Here we found fifteen loads of quartermaster's and commissary's supplies and a few small arms. The negroes were jubilant and anxious to sell sweet potatoes and other eatables which had cost them nothing (Walkley 1905:29; see also Eldrige 1893:67 who describes a similar scene at Seabrooks Landing).

This plantation became a significant focal point of activities on Hilton Head. The main house was used as the military headquarters of various regiments stationed to guard the Skull Creek "frontier" against Confederate intrusion (Culp 1885:97) and eventually Fort Mitchell (38BU1167) was built just to the south of the plantation "to guard against the ravages anticipated from the ram Atlanta" (Bedel 1880:525).

By 1863 the plantation was the location of machine shops and a shipyard used by the Quartermaster's Corps. A period newspaper account revealed,

that there are comparatively few persons in the Department who are aware that on the banks of Skull creek, near Seabrook's Landing, are machine shops, and ship and boat-yards, already second in importance to none south of the Potomac, all the recent growth of a few months. They have sprung up as it were in a single night, under the experienced and vigorous

administration of Mr. John H. Mors, Superintending Engineer of the Quarter's Department, under Lt. Col. J.J. Elwell . . . . The necessity has long been held for a properly organized and effective machine shop and ship yard, wherein the repairs to the engines and hulls of the large fleet of transports in government service in the quarter could be expeditiously and thoroughly accomplished . . . . The present location was selected as a proper one for the new machine shop and ship yard, as affording the best facilities for the kind of service just a present demanded . . . . The machine shop is a building put up for temporary purposes about forty feet square, on the edge of the Creek's bank, and is already supplied with all the more important and requisite machinery necessary for the present wants of the service. It has a small steam engine, which supplies the motive power for the entire establishment . . . . Adjoining the machine shop is the Blacksmith's shop, with its forges and blasts, and near it is the Boilermaker's yard where new boilers may be constructed or old ones repaired . . . . Near the machine shop is the shipyard, where ordinary repairs to the hulls of vessels can be made (New South, October 24, 1863, p. 3).

Although the Seabrook machine shops were reported to "exhibit all the energy and vigor of older establishments" and were "as full of promise for the future as the most sanguine could desire" (New South, October 24, 1863, p. 3), by November 1865 a letter was sent to the War Department in Washington requesting information on the deposition of the machinery and materials at the "government machine shops on Hilton Head." The remnants of the Seabrook machine shops were directed to be sold at a local public auction barely two years after their construction (National Archives, Quartermaster's Consolidated File, RG 92, Box 402).

Seabrook Plantation was also the location of a school for the freedmen operated by the American Missionary Association. Both Charlotte M. Keith and Annie R. Wilkens taught at the school and lived in the plantation house at least in 1866 and 1867. Their letters are in the American Missionary Association files. One letter from Annie Wilkens comments on arriving at the "dirty" Seabrook house on January 19, 1867 (AMA, H-6354), while E. Wright in February 1867 remarks that repairs at Seabrook had been made for the "comfort of the teachers" (AMA H-6404).

Captain A.P. Ketchum indicates that the machine shops were functional by March 1867, at which time the plantation consisted of "Mansion, Barns & Quarters, Machine Shop." The 1050 acre plantation consisted on 350 acres of cultivated land, 400 acres of woodland, and 300 acres of cleared lands (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, March 1867, SCDALH). The population on Seabrook was listed as 374 individuals in July 1867 (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, July 1867, SCDALH).

The 1862 draft Coast and Geodetic Survey map (Figure 2) clearly shows Seabrook Plantation, revealing the road to the dock, the configuration of the dock, four nearby structures (possibly industrial or storage related), the main house, nine associated structures (possibly house servant quarters, kitchen, smoke house, and so forth), a slave row of five structures (possibly of double pen construction), and six additional structures (possibly representing a second slave row). Portions of this tightly nucleated plantation complex are also shown on a South Carolina District Tax Map for Hilton Head Island, dated 1869 (Figure 3). While the exact placement of the structures is frequently different between the two maps, the structural arrangements are clearly very similar (e.g., a series of four structures south of the "landing road," two additional structures closer to the marsh on the south side of the "landing road," the rows of structures east of the main house area, and the probable main house complex area). The 1869 map also appears to show the 40-foot square machine shop to have been constructed adjacent to the creek in the landing.

In addition to these maps the January 25, 1862 edition of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper published an engraving of Seabrook Plantation (Figure 4). The early date suggests that the artist's engravings should, if accurate, closely resemble the Coast and Geodetic Map. Comparison of the two show agreements in a number of key points. Both illustrate a "T" shaped dock with two barns to the south of the "landing road". To the north of the "landing road" is the main house complex, with an enclosing fence which runs south to the road, shown on

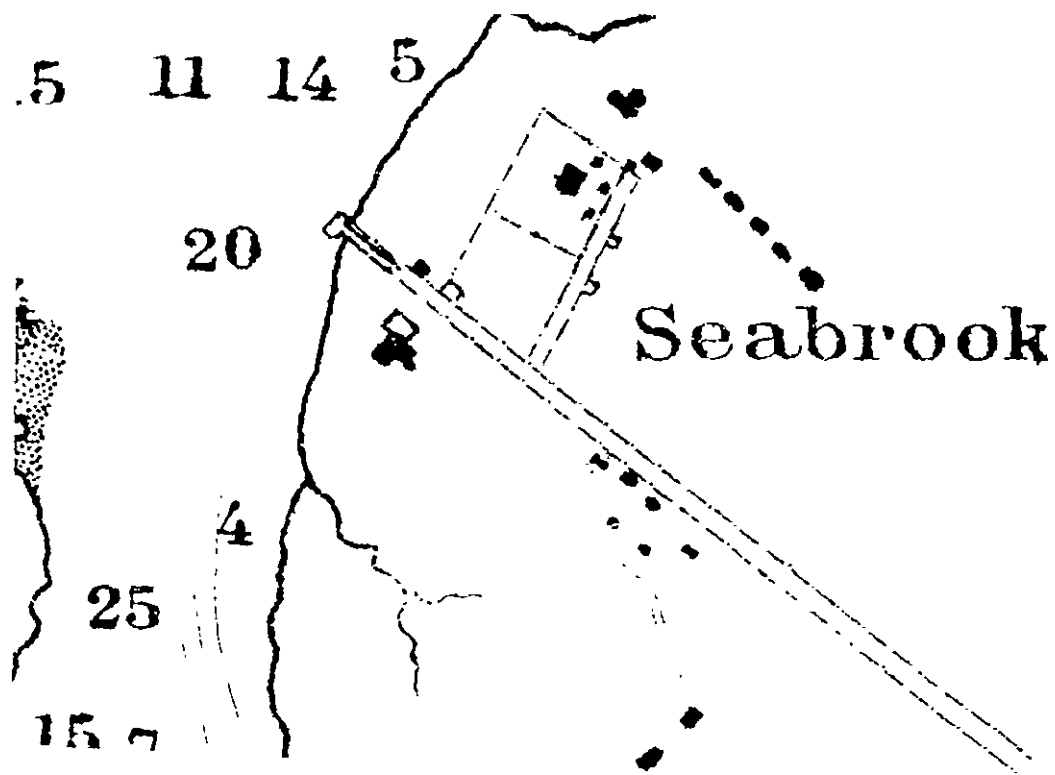


Figure 2. Seabrook Plantation in 1862.

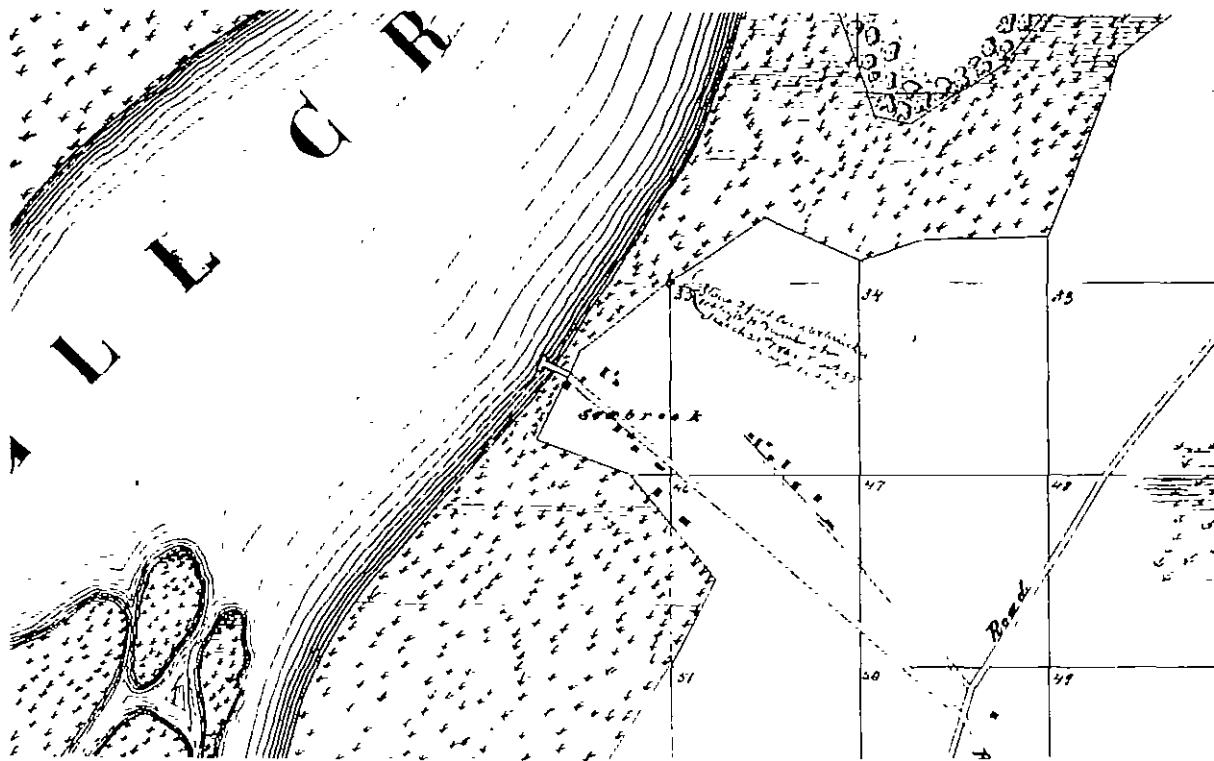


Figure 3. Seabrook Plantation 1869.

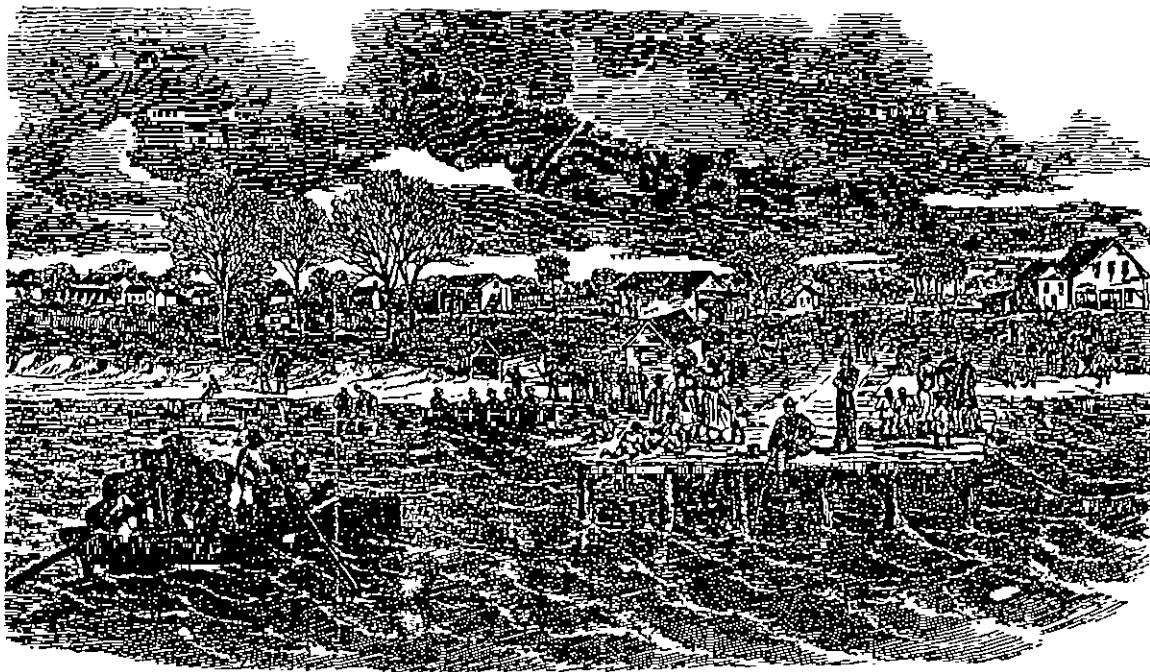


Figure 4. Engraving of Seabrook Plantation in 1862 (from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, January 25, 1862).

both the map and the engraving. The slave row, shown on the 1862 map as located east of the main house complex, is (correctly) not visible in the engraving. This suggests that the artist refrained from illustrating concepts (such as slave housing) that were not actually visible from his perspective.

Like other property owners in the rebellious states, Seabrook failed to pay federal taxes on his Hilton Head property and the plantation was confiscated by the United States Government. The property was eventually purchased by the Government. Isabel DeSaussure compiled an "Abstract of Property in the State of South Carolina lost by the Citizens thereof from the War," apparently from claims made to the federal government after the Civil War. This volume lists Seabrook's claims for a "Dwelling House & Lot, Furniture" valued at \$3000 which probably represent a house in Bluffton, 1600 acres of land with no assigned value, 89 slaves, 80 head of cattle, 75 hogs, 15 horses and mules, 90 bales of Sea Island cotton, one "10-oar boat," one "6-oar boat," 34 oars, one flat, two wagons, six carts, and one carriage (South Carolina Historical Society, File 34/309/1-2).

James B. Seabrook lacked the necessary money to redeem the plantation after the Civil War, but the tract was purchased in 1872 for James by attorney R.C. McIntire, apparently with the understanding that it would be paid for over time (Beaufort RMC DB 7, p.433). In 1873 James Seabrook, still unable to raise the necessary funds, deeded the plantation to McIntire (Beaufort RMC DB7, p. 448). The property was not divided into small plots for Blacks and was passed down largely intact to the twentieth century. McIntire is not listed in the 1880 agricultural census and no significant research has been conducted on the property in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The 1944 Fort Fremont 15' topographic map (based on a field survey conducted in 1912 and checked using 1939 aerial photographs) shows the tract with two structures, neither of which appear to be in the correct location for the main house. One structure may represent a standing slave cabin, while the other possibly represents a larger farm building.

## EXCAVATIONS AT 38BU323

### Research Goals

A number of research questions were formulated before and during the course of our field investigations including questions relating to field methodology, landscape alteration and landform changes, lifestyle of the African-American population, and the impact of freedom. Questions relating to these four areas are discussed below:

#### ▣ **Field Methodology**

- 1) How effective is close interval (20 feet) interval shovel testing at locating structure areas and features; and
- 2) Is a metal detector an effective tool for pin pointing the location of structures and features?

#### ▣ **Landscape Alteration and Landform Changes**

- 1) What impact has erosion had on the site;
- 2) Is there evidence that the arrangement of the plantation changed through time;
- 3) How was the plantation altered for use by the Federal troops and the American Missionary Association; and
- 4) What do the location of landscape features such as ornamental earthen berms, roadways, and fence lines suggests about the planter's vision of his controlled landscape?

#### ▣ **Lifestyle of the African-American population-**

- 1) What differences are there between the two slave settlements identified in the survey? Based on layout, it appears that the northern slave row is associated with field slaves whereas the southern row may have housed slaves with specialized skills. Investigations at neighboring Cotton Hope plantation at a settlement similar in layout to Seabrook's southern slave row indicated that the site was occupied by specialized slaves (Trinkley 1990).
- 2) How do the remains at the southern row compare to those at Seabrook, and how similar or different are these remains to the northern slave row?
- 3) What do these similarities and differences (investigated through the examination of architecture, ceramics, food remains, and artifact patterns) reveal about the social stratification of Hilton Head slaves?

#### ▣ **Impact of freedom-**

- 1) What impact did freedom have on the African-American population through the Port Royal experiment?
- 2) How does Seabrook Plantation differ from a plantation like Drayton's? Before Seabrook was redeemed by its owner after the Civil War it was leased by a white man, whereas Drayton's was collectively leased by the former slaves. Although there is no comparative data available,

the work at Seabrook can begin to lay the ground work for investigating this research question.

3) How does Seabrook Plantation (a more rural situation) compare with Mitchelville which was a planned town? Is there a rural/urban difference as has been observed in high status white occupations of Charleston town houses and corresponding plantations?

## **Field Methods**

### **Introduction**

Prior to any archaeological investigations, the understory vegetation was cleared with a bush hog. This allowed easy access to all parts of the site and provided for easier gridding.

The site was tied into a permanent grid to provide both horizontal and vertical control. Vertical control was tied to a Southeastern Survey marker located in the vicinity of the old dock remains. The marker is at an elevation of 6.93 mean sea level (MSL). The orientation of the site grid is described below.

### **Proposed Excavations**

At 38BU323 we proposed to concentrate on nine site areas previously defined in the survey (Trinkley 1988). These areas included Midden 1 (possibly representing debris associated with the military use of Seabrook Landing), Middens 2 and 3 (thought to represent remnants of the slave occupation), Midden 4 (tentatively defined as a small military outpost), Midden 5 (associated with tabby rubble), Locus 5 (a small prehistoric concentration), Locus 8 (the area of the main house and a possible kitchen), Locus 10 (the extant slave row), and the area originally defined as 38BU337 (a disarticulated tabby wall eroding into Skull Creek).

Midden 1, which appeared to represent a Civil War deposit during the survey, perhaps associated with the Landing, was to be investigated by the excavation of several 10 foot units and we anticipated spending a period of up to two days in this area.

Middens 2 and 3 appeared to be associated with the adjacent southern slave row of Seabrook Plantation. These middens had both been damaged by the construction of a modern ditch. A period of one week was to be spent placing units outside the impacted area in order to obtain a representative sample of the midden deposits.

Midden 4 was a small deposit thought to represent a brief military encampment. Work at this area was to involve the excavation of up to two 10 foot units over a two day period.

Midden 5 was a small shell pile associated with badly disarticulated tabby remains. Work in this area was to involve the excavation of up to two 10 foot squares over two days.

Locus 5 was a poorly defined concentration of prehistoric remains within the plantation boundary. Because more extensive work was planned for 38BU821, only two days of investigation were proposed for this area.

Locus 8 represented the main plantation and a possible kitchen. Two weeks were to be used to investigate this area. Excavations were to be coupled with an intensive auger survey at 25 foot intervals in the hopes of locating concentrations of architectural materials. Based on these auger tests, block excavations were to be used to investigate high density areas. In addition, the area originally defined as site 38BU337, containing the disarticulated remains of a tabby structure eroding into Skull Creek, was to be investigated over a period of five days.

Locus 10 represented the southern tabby slave row. During the initial survey two tabby chimney bases



were identified. Although additional structures were believed to exist, we selected to devote our attention to the two remains known to exist. Investigations in this area were to involve up to two weeks of excavation.

### **Implemented Excavations**

Work at Midden 1 resulted in the excavation of one 10 foot unit (100 square feet or 70 cubic feet) although we initially proposed excavating several 10 foot units. However, upon clearing of the surrounding landscape and excavation of the one unit, we found that this midden, in actuality, represented the remnant of Seabrook Landing Road. The change in methodology at this "midden" was reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office on September 19, 1994. This excavation resulted in 799 pounds of shell and coal.

At Middens 2 and 3 the work implemented did not deviate from the work initially proposed. A total of six 10 foot units (600 square feet or 580 cubic feet) were excavated. A total of 1525 pounds of shell and 35 pounds of brick were recovered.

Upon initial clearing of Midden 4, we found that approximately 20% of this midden had been potted or vandalized since the 1988 survey. As a result, the work was reduced here to the excavation of one 5 by 10 foot unit (50 square feet or 80 cubic feet). We had initially proposed the excavation of up to 200 square feet. As at Midden 1, this change was discussed with and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. A total of 868 pounds of shell and 48 pounds of brick, tabby, and mortar were recovered.

After clearing and close interval (20 foot) auger testing at Midden 5, we found that the midden was actually a small push pile with very little shell or tabby. Very few historic artifacts were recovered from the auger tests in this area. As a result no additional investigation of this area was performed, although we had initially proposed to excavate up to two 10 foot units.

Locus 5 was originally identified as a poorly defined prehistoric concentration. Subsequent auger testing at 20 foot interval yielded no evidence of midden layers and the artifacts were sparsely scattered. As a result, we decided to use the time originally allotted here (two days) for additional time at the main house complex and additional auger testing in other areas.

At Locus 8 (the main house complex) we originally proposed auger testing at 25 foot intervals. Given that we had extra time from areas where work was reduced, we excavated the auger tests at 20 foot intervals and expanded it to include the suspected area of the northern slave row, where some isolated in situ deposits were identified during the survey. As a result 434 auger tests were excavated across the site. A field density map was created and a metal detector was used to help identify which concentration likely contained structures. Based on these findings, three block excavations were excavated. In addition, three isolated units were used to either investigate other density or to investigate landscape features. Three back hoe trenches were also used to examine landscape features.

The three block excavations included:

- 475 square feet or 462.5 cubic feet in the vicinity of structural remains identified through auger testing and metal detection (resulting in 3089 pounds of shell and 166 pounds of brick and mortar rubble);
- 500 square feet or 760 cubic feet in the area of what was discovered to be a well feature identified through auger testing and metal detection (resulting in 4243 pounds of shell and 543 pounds of brick, tabby and mortar rubble); and
- 425 square feet or 384 cubic feet in the area of a suspected slave house in the northern slave

row identified through auger testing and metal detection (resulting in 1048 pounds of shell and 20 pounds of brick and mortar rubble).

The isolated units consisted of three 10 foot squares used to investigate minor concentrations or landscape features. This resulted in the excavation of 300 square feet or 290 cubic feet and the recovery of 347 pounds of shell and 182 pounds of brick.

As a result, a total of 1,700 square feet or 1896.5 cubic feet were excavated at Locus 8. This resulted in the overall recovery of 8,727 pounds of shell and 911 pounds of brick. A total of five weeks were spent investigating this site with excavation units and auger tests.

An additional week was obtained to investigate the well feature after consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (letter from Mr. Lee Tippet to Dr. Michael Trinkley, October 12, 1994). This did not add a week's worth of work to the overall project schedule, but was transferred from the two weeks allotted to the investigation of a small Woodland shell midden site (38BU821-see this report) adjacent to 38BU323. After consultation with the client, this arrangement was believed to be the most agreeable of the alternatives (which included either green spacing the well or funding of additional excavations).

Work at Locus 10 resulted in the excavation of 550 square feet (or 457.5 cubic feet) at Structure 1 and 500 square feet (or 450 cubic feet) at Structure 2. This resulted in the recovery of 3058 pounds of shell and 74 pounds of brick and mortar rubble at Structure 1, and 994 pounds of shell and 36 pounds of brick and mortar rubble. As originally proposed, two weeks were used to investigate these two structures.

All modifications to the data recovery plan as listed above were provided to the State Historic Preservation Office in a letter dated September 19, 1994.

### Methodology

At Middens 1 through 4 units were oriented with magnetic north and were tied into a tree and topo map provided by the developer. At the adjacent Locus 10, units were oriented with extant structural remains. At both structures the grid was oriented N44°W. Again, units were tied into the tree and topo map.

Excavations in the other areas of the site were tied into a 20 foot interval auger test grid, oriented N47°W.

Excavations were conducted using gross natural stratigraphic zones. Zone 1, level 1 consists of a dark brown loamy sand with varying densities of shell, brick, and tabby rubble, varying in depth from 0.7 to 1.2 feet. Zone 1, level 2 consists of a brown loamy sand with small quantities of shell, varying in depth from 0.2 to 0.8 feet. Zone 1a soils consist of intact shell midden, varying in depth from 1.1 to 2.0 feet. This Zone 1a was generally divided into two one foot levels (Zone 1a, level 1 and Zone 1a, level 2). There was only one instance of Zone 2 soils which consisted of a layer of oyster shell used to fill in the floor of a structure situated at about one foot below grade.

Flotation samples (typically 5 gallons in size) were collected from areas which exhibited a high potential for the recovery of ethnobotanical remains. A 5% sample of shell midden from each excavation unit was collected for information on species diversity, midden density, and shellfish analysis. The remaining shell would be weighed, and discarded, in the field. In addition, pollen samples were taken from areas of the site which appeared to be protected and undisturbed.

All fill was screened minimally through ¼-inch mesh, with samples of shell midden soils screened through ⅛-inch mesh. Chicora Foundation also obtained a column sample (2.25 feet square) of all shell midden

for detailed analysis, including shell midden density, shellfish analysis, and identification of very small faunal remains.

After excavation, each unit was trowelled at the top of subsoil. All units were plotted and photographed (in black and white negative and color slide film) as well as all features (i.e. pits and post holes) encountered during the excavations. Profile and plan views were drawn of each unit.

Features were bisected to provide profiles, photographs, and drawings, and feature fill was screened through 1/8-inch mesh and samples were taken for water flotation.

Chicora also used pH neutral, alkaline-buffered paper for field notes. Photographic materials will be processed to archival permanence. Standard forms, such as daily reports, level forms, photographic forms, and feature forms were used to maintain site information.

Excavations were backfilled at the conclusion of the project through the use of heavy equipment provided by the client. During the project, excavation units were covered with black plastic. A total of 1509 person hours were spent at the site resulting in the excavation of 3425 square feet or 3444 cubic feet. As a result 14,506 pounds of shell and 1,069 pounds of brick, tabby, and mortar were recovered. An additional 75.5 person hours were spent in the field laboratory processing artifacts.

### Findings

Since none of the analysis has been performed on the artifacts from the Seabrook Landing site (38BU323), general comments will be made about each of the areas excavated. In the previous sections, areas have been discussed as they were defined in the 1988 survey. From this point on, these former terms will no longer be used and areas will be discussed as such:

- Main House Complex which includes Midden 1, 38BU337, and Locus 8 (west of dirt road);
- Southern Slave Row which includes Middens 2, 3, and 4 and Locus 10 (Structures 1 and 2);  
and
- Northern Slave Row which includes the portion of Locus 8 east of the dirt road.

Figures 5 and 6 are maps of the site showing the location of auger tests, excavation units, bulldozer cuts, and known landscape features.

### **Main House Complex**

The main house complex contains the remains of the complex as well as industrial buildings associated with the use of the site by military forces during the Civil War. The entire complex west of the modern dirt road was subject to 20 foot interval auger testing. Density maps for artifacts, shell, and brick are provided in Figures 7, 8, and 9. These tests revealed at least seven concentrations of artifactual remains located south of an earthen berm which appears to have no practical function. Artifacts north of the berm are very scarce, suggesting that the berm served as a sort of fence or boundary marker.

The auger tests revealed evidence of an oyster shell paved road running parallel to the shore. The artifact concentrations were further examined with a Tesoro Bandito II metal detector to help determine which of these contained structural remains and which may be trash middens. Of the seven concentrations, two were located in the area believed to contain the industrial complex which contained a boilermaker's, a blacksmith's shop, a machine shop, and a shipyard. The metal detector was used on both the all metals and the discrimination

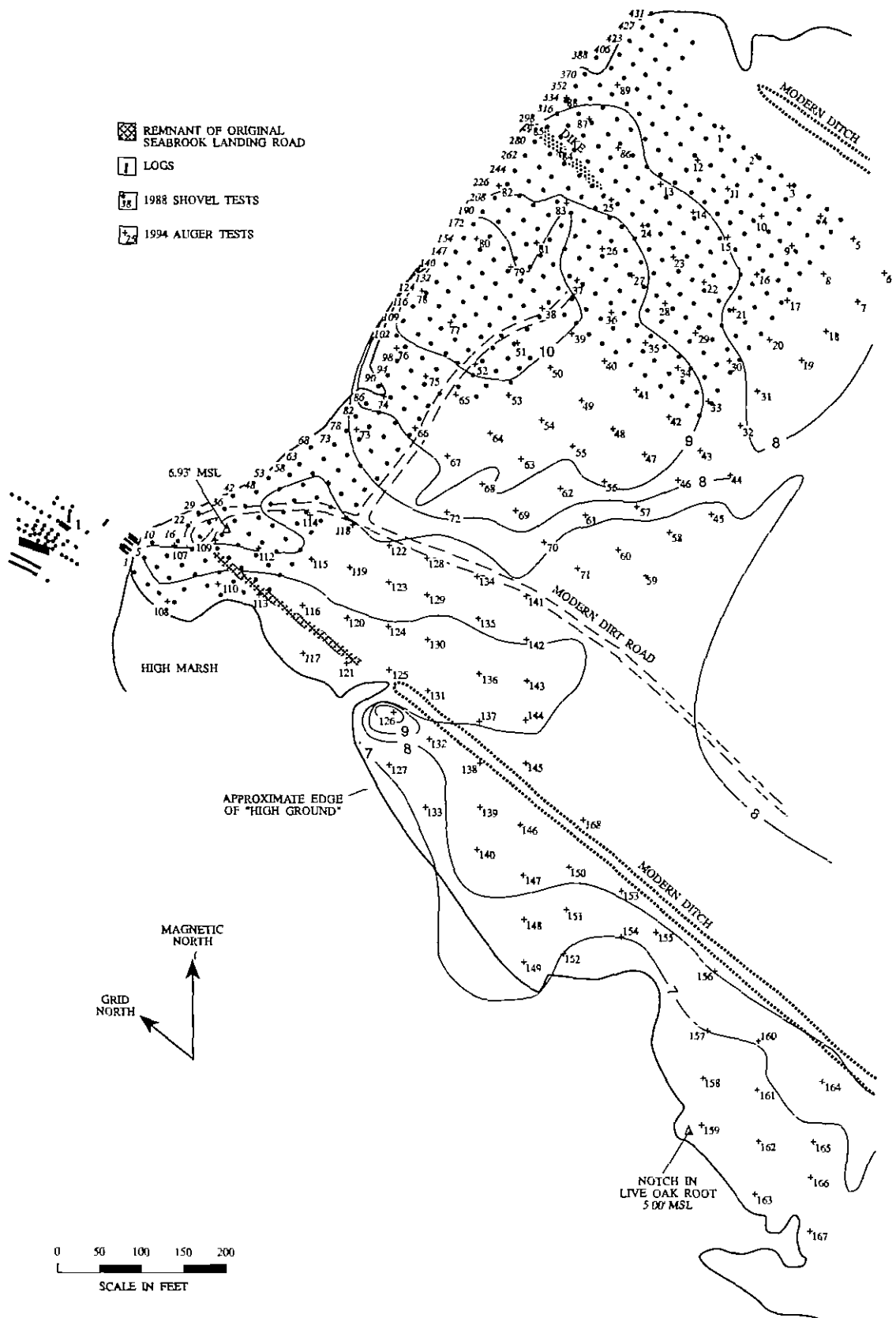


Figure 5. Location of auger tests at 38BU323.

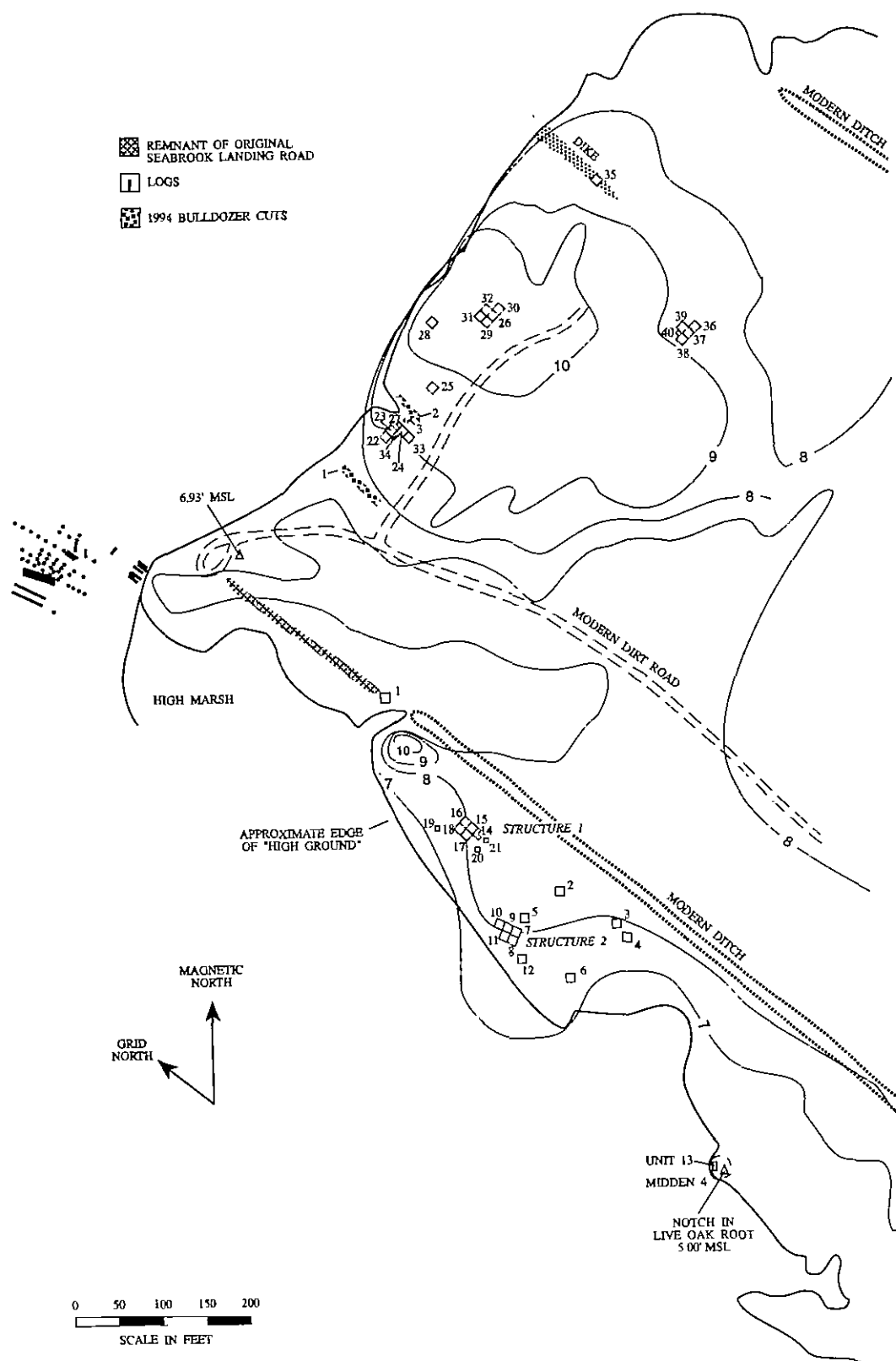


Figure 6. Location of excavation units, bulldozer cuts, and landscape features at 38BU323.

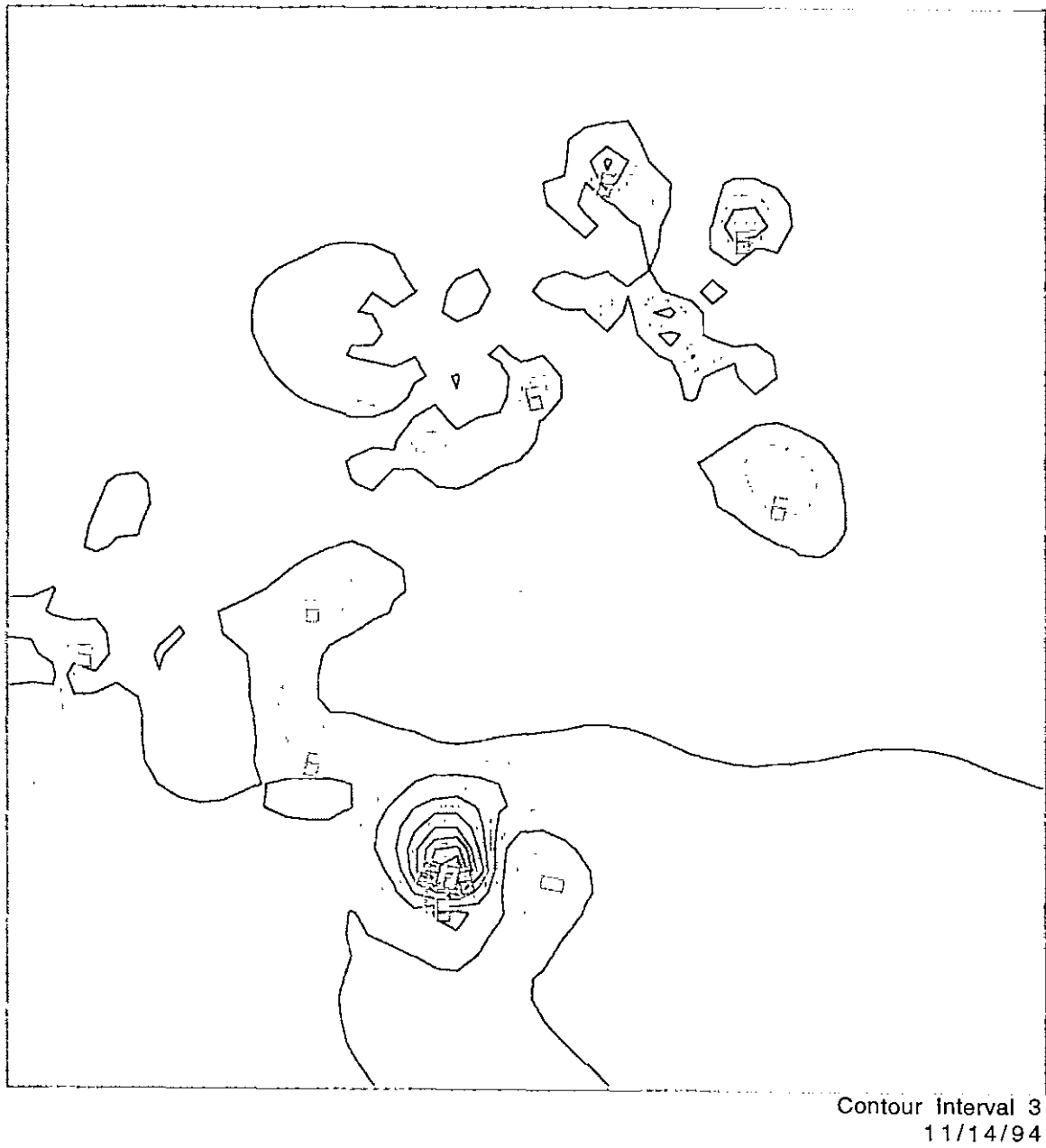
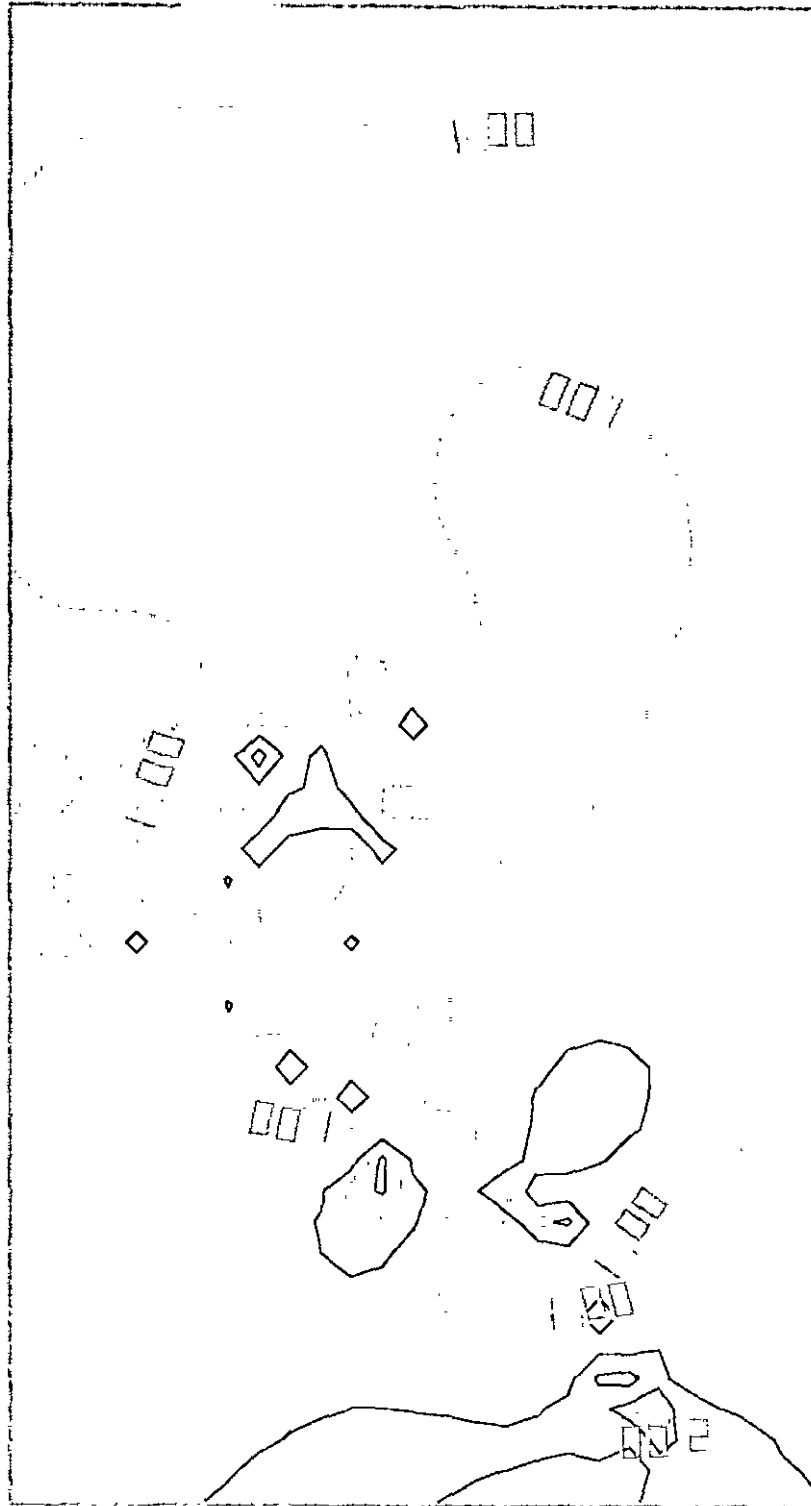
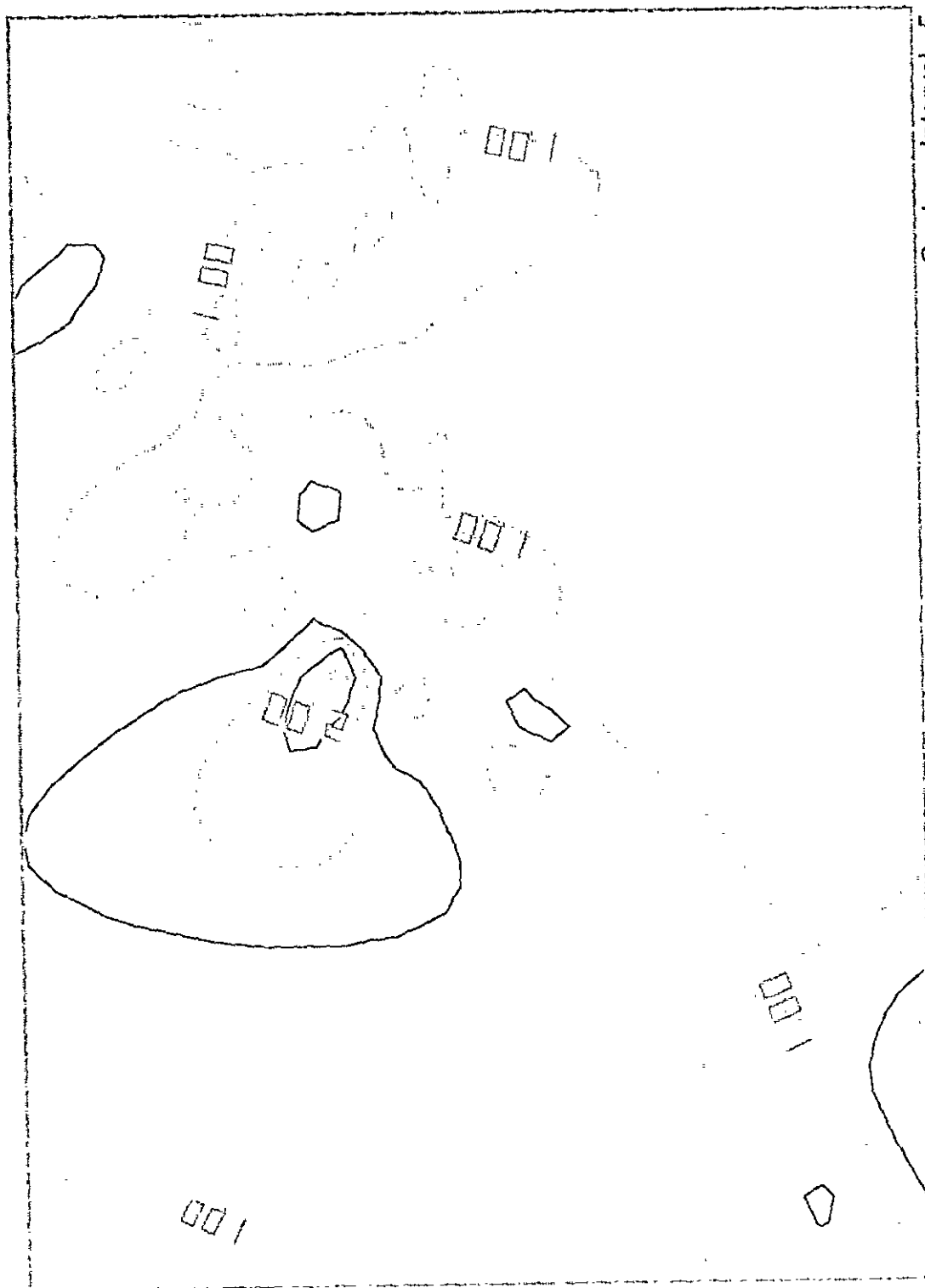


Figure 7. Artifact densities from 38BU323, main house complex.



Contour Interval .5  
11/14/94

Figure 8. Shell densities from 38BU323, main house complex.



Contour Interval .5  
11/14/94

Figure 9. Brick densities from 38BU323, main house complex.



mode which revealed a diffuse scatter of remains (including modern garbage) across the whole area. The remaining five concentrations were located in the area of the plantation complex. Of those five concentrations, the metal detector (using the all metals mode) revealed that three had fairly tight concentrations of metallic remains. One of the three was identified on the surface as a early to mid twentieth century trash dump, although there were a number of bottle fragments which appeared to date to the postbellum period. The other two concentrations were investigated with block excavations, while two other areas were examined with a single ten foot square. In addition, a ten foot square was placed on the old Seabrook Landing road and another was placed on top of an earthen berm with a suspected ornamental function.

The first block excavation (Block 1) revealed the remains of a 16 by 16 foot continuous brick foundation (Figure 10). Interestingly, the metal detector's readings were concentrated in an 18 by 18 foot area which suggests that it is an excellent tool for pinpointing structural remains. Artifacts in the vicinity did not suggest a domestic function. Artifact density was relatively low (however it was the dense brick rubble and metal detector readings that lead us to excavate there) and there was an unusually high quantity of strap metal in the vicinity. This suggests that the structure may have served as a storage building. Through bulldozer cuts and hand probing, the structure was found to be situated approximately 20 feet north of the end of the shell paved road. This further suggests its utilitarian nature.

Inside of the structure a thick layer of oyster shell was encountered. A 5 by 10 foot unit was placed in this layer and approximately 0.9 to 1.2 feet of shell was excavated. At the base of the shell was a relatively thin mortar floor measuring a little less than 0.1 foot thick. The floor was laid directly on top of natural yellow sand and both surfaces were irregular. The mortar floor is situated about 1.1 feet below the level of the surrounding subsoil indicating that one had to step down into the building.

The brick foundation appears to have supported a fairly simple wooden superstructure, since very little rubble (166 pounds) was encountered. Although brick has been robbed from the structure, if it were entirely brick there would have been a large quantity of mortar rubble and brick fragments. Based on the type of artifacts present (or absent) in the shell layer (military buttons, strap metal, whiteware, sparsity of nails, etc.), it appears that the building was dismantled and portions of the upper brick foundation were robbed out, perhaps by the military. At some point, either when the military robbed the bricks or when the plantation was being cleaned up for the teachers, the interior of the structure was filled in with shell to bring it up to grade.

On the interior walls of the structure there was a mortar and plaster coat which appears to have been put on after the floor was poured. Bricks used in the foundation were all almost entirely fragments, suggesting that they were robbed from elsewhere. Brick fragments were commonly used in below grade foundations of little consequence (i.e., which carried only a limited load and which were associated with utilitarian structures). During excavation we realized that the bricks were quite soft and much care was need so as not to further damage them.

The only features encountered was the builder's trench (Feature 1) and a single post hole. Artifacts from the builder's trench (e.g. whiteware) suggest a construction date no earlier than about 1840. The post hole is relatively small (0.6 feet in diameter) and may have functioned to support a shed overhang roof.

The second block excavation (Block 2) uncovered a well feature (Figure 11). This feature (Feature 2) was characterized by a shaft measuring approximately five feet in diameter surrounded by a clay filled construction pit estimated to measure about 20 feet in diameter.

In addition to the well feature, a tabby pier was located. No additional piers were located either during excavation, auger testing, or by hand probing. It is possible that the remaining tabby piers were robbed by the military for use elsewhere (a situation found at the Stoney/Baynard Plantation on Hilton Head).

Artifacts included a large quantity of nails that are not believed to be associated with a building since

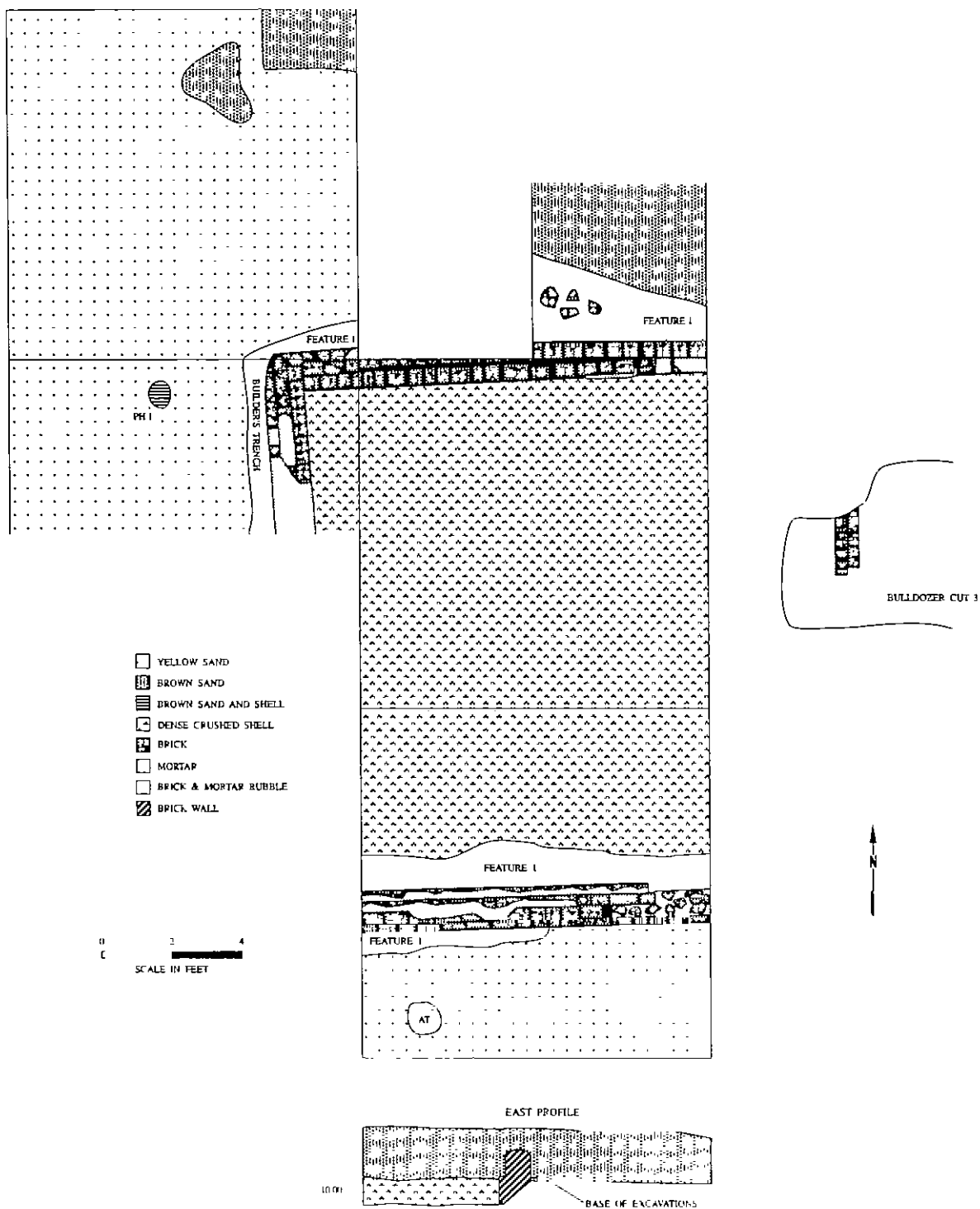


Figure 10. Excavations in Block 1, 38BU323, main house complex.

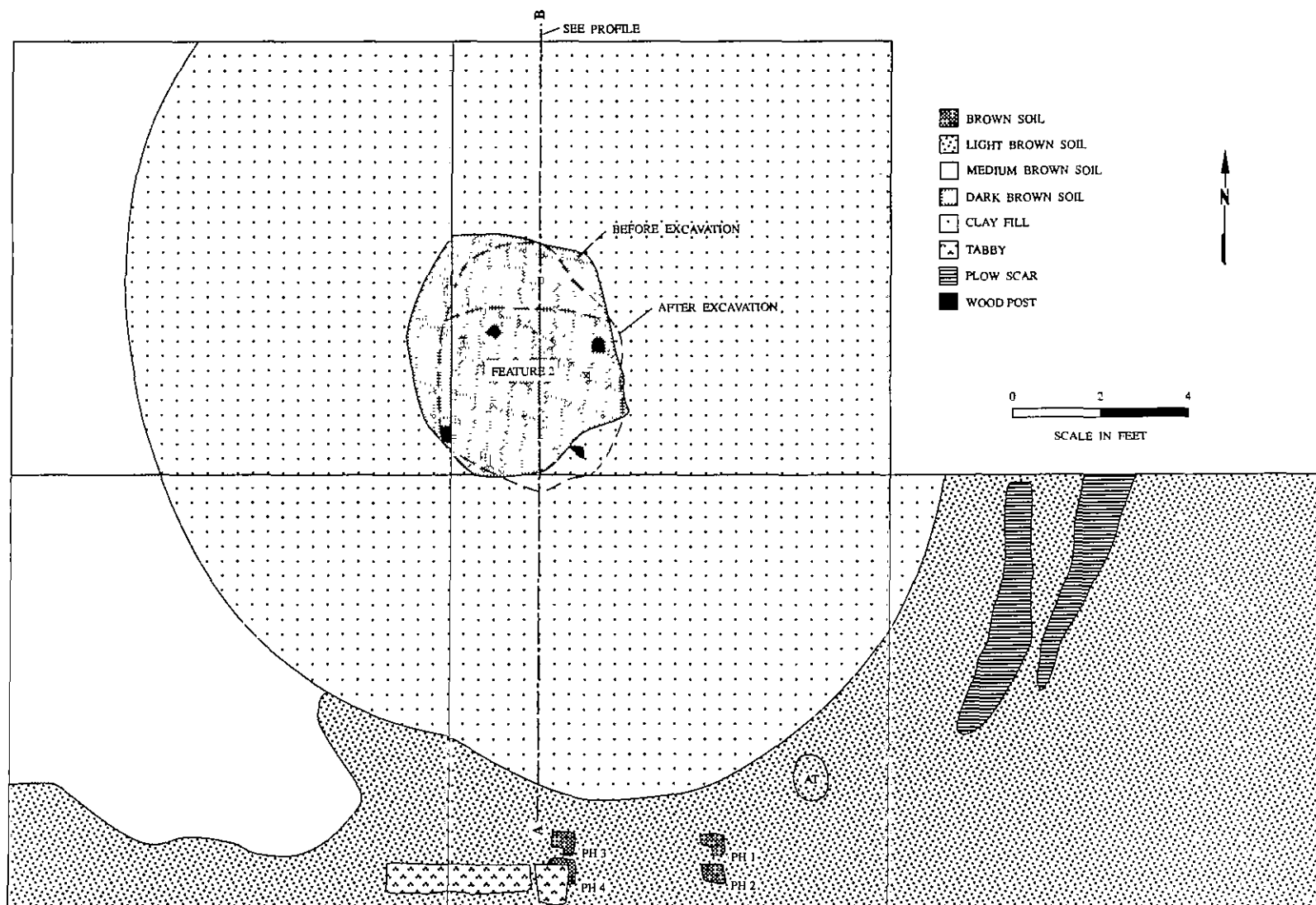


Figure 11. Excavations in Block 2, 38BU323, main house complex.

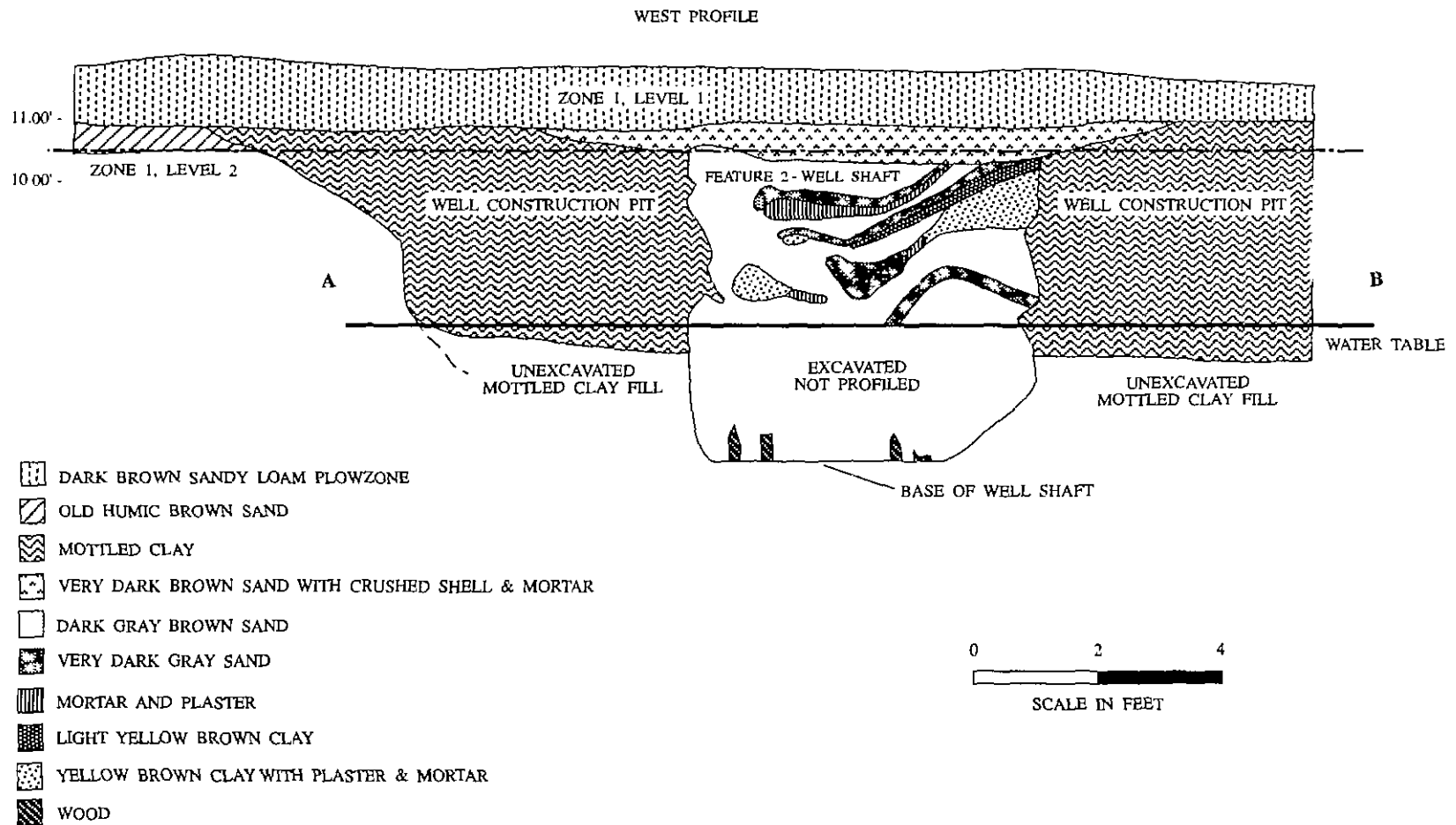


Figure 12. West profile of well (Feature 2) at 38BU323, main house complex.

the quantity was too great to account for one building. More likely, the area contained a pile of structural debris which rotted in place. This scenario is quite likely since the primary artifacts in the well feature were structural. Other artifacts in the vicinity appear to date primarily from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century.

The clay fill surrounding the well shaft was bisected and the east half was excavated. Excavation of the clay fill surrounding the well shaft yielded very few artifacts. As a result a sample of the artifacts was obtained from the upper 0.7 feet of the fill area, while the remaining portion was discarded. In addition, the entire clay fill area was not excavated primarily because of the level of the water table and the sparsity of artifacts.

The well shaft was bisected into east and west half and removed in one foot layers until the water table was reached (at about 4.5 feet below ground surface). After the profile was photographed and drawn (see Figure 12), the western half was removed in the same manner. A mud hog was then used to pump out water and surrounding mud to allow further excavations into the shaft. At the point to the base, the contents were taken out as one. The base of the well (determined by the presence of "clean" mud) was reached at about 6.5 feet below ground surface.

Below the water table several pieces of planking were recovered. In addition, four posts were identified (Figure 12). These posts apparently served to support planks placed between them and the backfilled clay wall. According to a local, many old wells were lined this way with gaps between the planks to allow for seepage. No evidence for a lining was found above the water table, probably because conditions for preservation were much poorer. It is unclear if this method of lining was used above the water table, but given the circular shape of the feature before excavation it was most likely lined with a barrel.

Two types of barrels were manufactured for the storage of goods -- "wet" and "dry" barrels. A "wet" barrel was held together with iron hoops and usually made of oak. These barrels were made for wine, whiskey, ale, sauces, and jam. "Dry" barrels were often bound with wicker bands, although iron bands were sometimes used. The wood was usually cheap, soft, and second hand. These barrels contained products such as butter, soap, syrup, and gunpowder (Kilby 1971:70). At a Civil War encampment on Folly Island (Legg and Smith 1989), historical sources mention barrelled goods such as flour, sugar, apples, eggs, pork, pigs feet, ale, wine, and cider (Jackson and O'Donnell 1965:107, 117; Marple 1863: 20, 23, 26). It should be noted here that barrels were often reused for shipping bottled items (eg. wine, ale, and whiskey) as well as other bulk items such as ceramics. Only a few fragments of strap iron were found in the excavations, suggesting that perhaps a wicker banded barrel (or "dry" barrel) was used. However, since the well shaft is (at its narrowest point) about 4.7 feet in diameter the barrel would have to have been a "wet" barrel. According to Kilby (1971:50-64) the largest "dry" barrel available measured 28½ inches (or 2.3 feet) at the pitch. However, "wet" barrels were available in sizes up to 70 inches (or 5.7 feet). Civil War encampments often contained large numbers of empty barrels which were recycled not only as containers, but were also adaptively reused. Many Civil War photographs show barrels being used for chimneys and wells (Legg and Smith 1989:128). Given the heavy concentration of military troops at Seabrook Landing, the choice of a barrel lining would have been quite logical.

Four 10 foot squares were excavated in other areas of interest in the main house complex. The first unit was placed in an area of relatively high artifacts concentration although the metal detector did not reveal any concentrations of metallic artifacts. This area revealed a thin zone of earlier historic artifacts and prehistoric sherds. Three post holes were encountered in no configuration.

The second unit was place in an area of low artifact density and high rubble density. The metal detector did not reveal any concentration of metallic artifacts in this area. This unit was in the vicinity of the eroding disarticulated tabby wall which Michie defined as 38BU337. A large quantity of plaster was encountered in the auger tests which made us suspect that this may be all that remained of the plantation main house. Five post holes were encountered, four of which were quite shallow. The remaining post hole (ph4) was quite substantial.

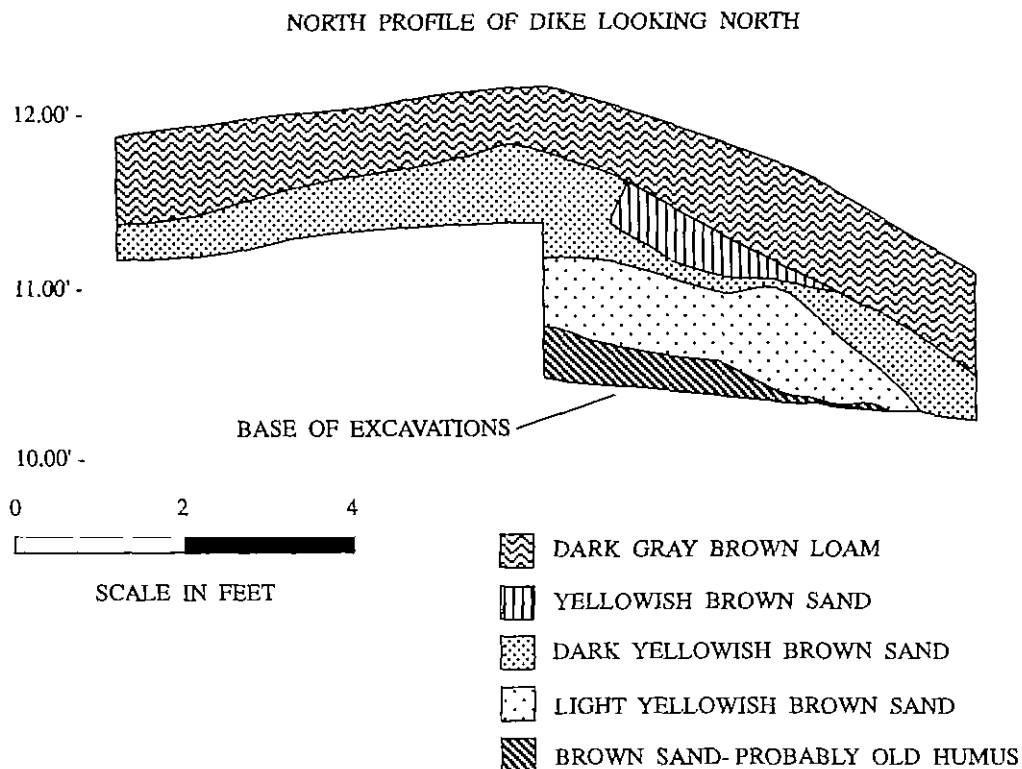


Figure 13. North profile of earthen berm in TP 35, 38BU323, main house complex.

No clear in situ remains of the house were identified, so coupled with the lack of readings with the metal detector and the sparsity of artifacts, it appears that the main house is completely eroded into the marsh of Skull Creek with possibly all remaining being the concentration of mortar and plaster as well as the disarticulated tabby wall fragment.

The third unit was placed on top of the earthen berm to determine if there was a fence line along its crest as well as to determine construction methods. Excavations revealed no post holes. However, a length of barbed wire was recovered from the ground surface. A five foot square was placed in the northeast corner and excavated down to what appeared to be the old humus layer. This was done to examine the berm profile for evidence of possible basket loading of dirt such as was found in the berms at Crowfield Plantation gardens in Goose Creek (Trinkley et al. 1992). No clear evidence for this was found (Figure 13).

A fourth unit was placed in an area which originally was believed to be an industrial deposit. However, after bush hogging the area and excavation, it was discovered that the deposit (consisting primarily of coal and shell) was part of the old Seabrook Landing road bed.

#### Southern Slave Row

Work at the southern slave row consisted of shell midden, yard, and structural excavations. Discussions will be divided into Structure 1 excavations, Structure 2 excavations, and other yard excavations.

At Structure 1, 475 square feet were used to examine structural features, while an additional 75 square feet were used to examine yard areas associated with the house. Artifacts dated primarily to the mid-nineteenth century.

Excavations uncovered a structure raised up on posts measuring about 13 by 19 feet with the tabby chimney on the south gabled end (Figure 14). Subsoil inside of the structure was higher suggesting that the yard was swept. Just behind the chimney, yard excavations examined a very dense shell midden with few artifacts. This is unusual for a slave house, since middens at other slave settlements have evidenced large quantities of kitchen related artifacts and animal bone. Other yard excavations revealed that artifact densities dropped off significantly further away from the structure.

At Structure 2 500 square feet were used to examine structural features, while an additional 200 square feet were used to examine yard areas associated with the house. Like Structure 1, artifacts dated primarily to the mid-nineteenth century although artifacts (such as manganese glass) suggest an occupation up to as late as 1900. An unusually large quantity of pencil leads were found at this structure, pointing out how strongly the Port Royal experiment may have affected the archaeological record.

These excavations uncovered a structure raised up on posts measuring 10 by 15 feet with the tabby chimney on the south gabled end (Figure 15). Excavations also suggest the presence of a porch on the east edge about two feet wide. Alternatively, the posts may be part of a fence line. Fences were commonly used to set off slave settlements from the main house settlement as well as to enclose personal gardens.

Yard excavations examined a shell midden. This midden was much like the one at Structure 1 which contained few artifacts. Other yard excavations revealed five post holes which may be associated with some sort of outbuilding.

Other yard excavations consisted of 450 square feet excavated in various areas. One 5 by 10 foot unit was placed in the vicinity of a looted midden which was originally believed to have been deposited by military troops. Excavations retrieved few military related artifacts. In fact, artifacts date primarily to the postbellum period. It is likely that this midden belongs to a nearby house.

Four other ten foot units were placed north and east of Structure 2. However, they were far enough away that they are quite likely to be associated with other structures. Artifacts in these units dated primarily to the mid nineteenth century. All of these units contained extensive plow scarring as well as isolated post holes and artifact density was relatively low.

#### **Northern Slave Row**

Before excavations were begun, the 20 foot interval auger test grid oriented N47°W which was placed over the main house complex was expanded to the northern slave row which is situated in an area of planted pines. These tests revealed two concentrations of artifactual remains and the possible remnant of a shell road. Density maps for artifacts and shell are provided in Figures 16 and 17. A metal detector was used on the all metals mode to examine the two concentrations. Only one of these yielded a significant number of readings, although they appeared to be dispersed over a relatively large area (approximately 50 by 50 feet). It is likely that the remains have been dispersed over the years through plowing.

Based on the general location of metallic remains in the one artifact concentration and the location of the largest quantity of artifacts in this concentration, a block excavation consisting of 425 square feet was excavated (Figure 18). These excavations revealed two features including a drainage ditch and the remnants of a tabby hearth. In addition, a possible fence line was uncovered as well as evidence for a structure post dating the hearth feature.

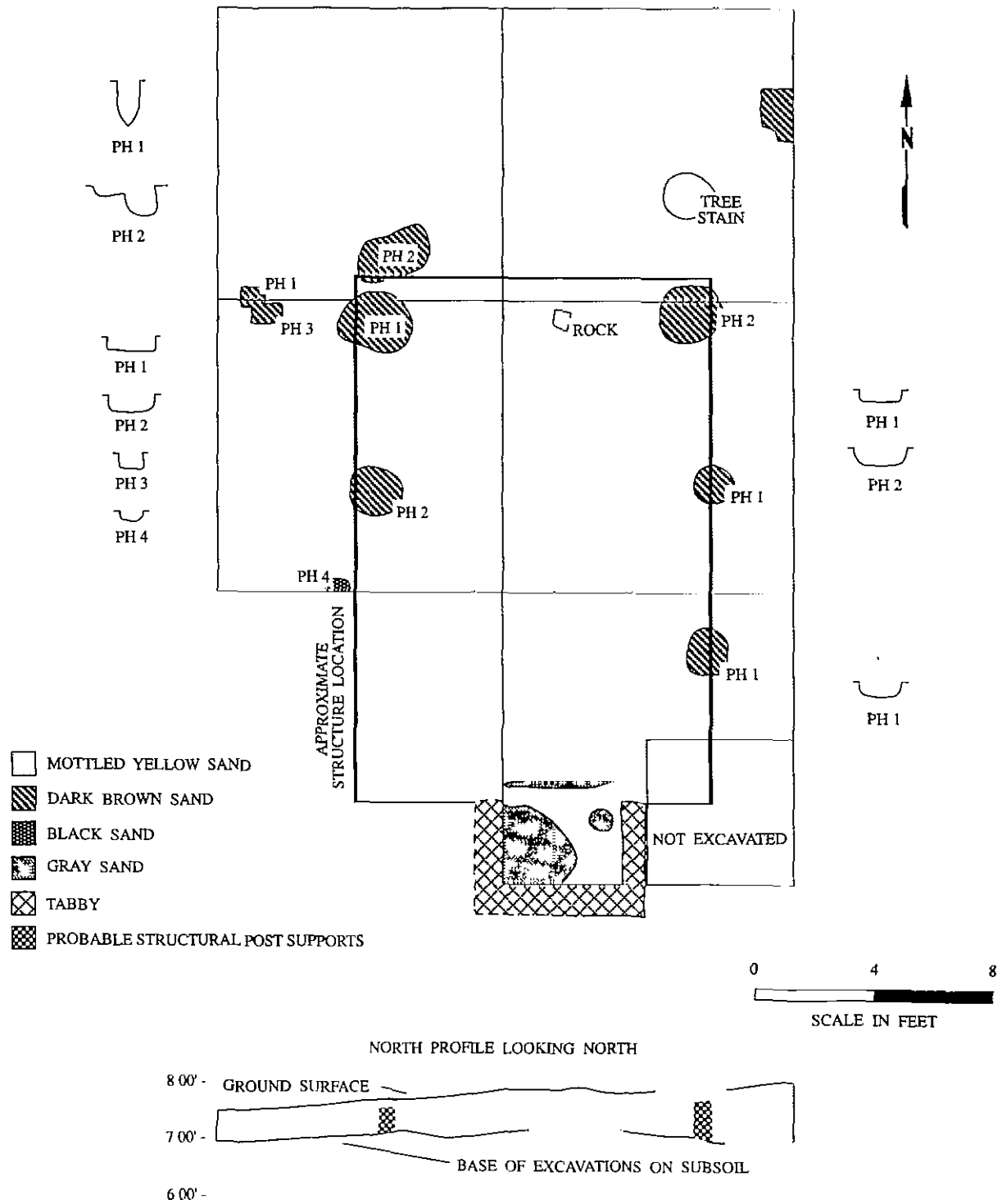


Figure 14. House excavations at Structure 1, 38BU323, southern slave row.



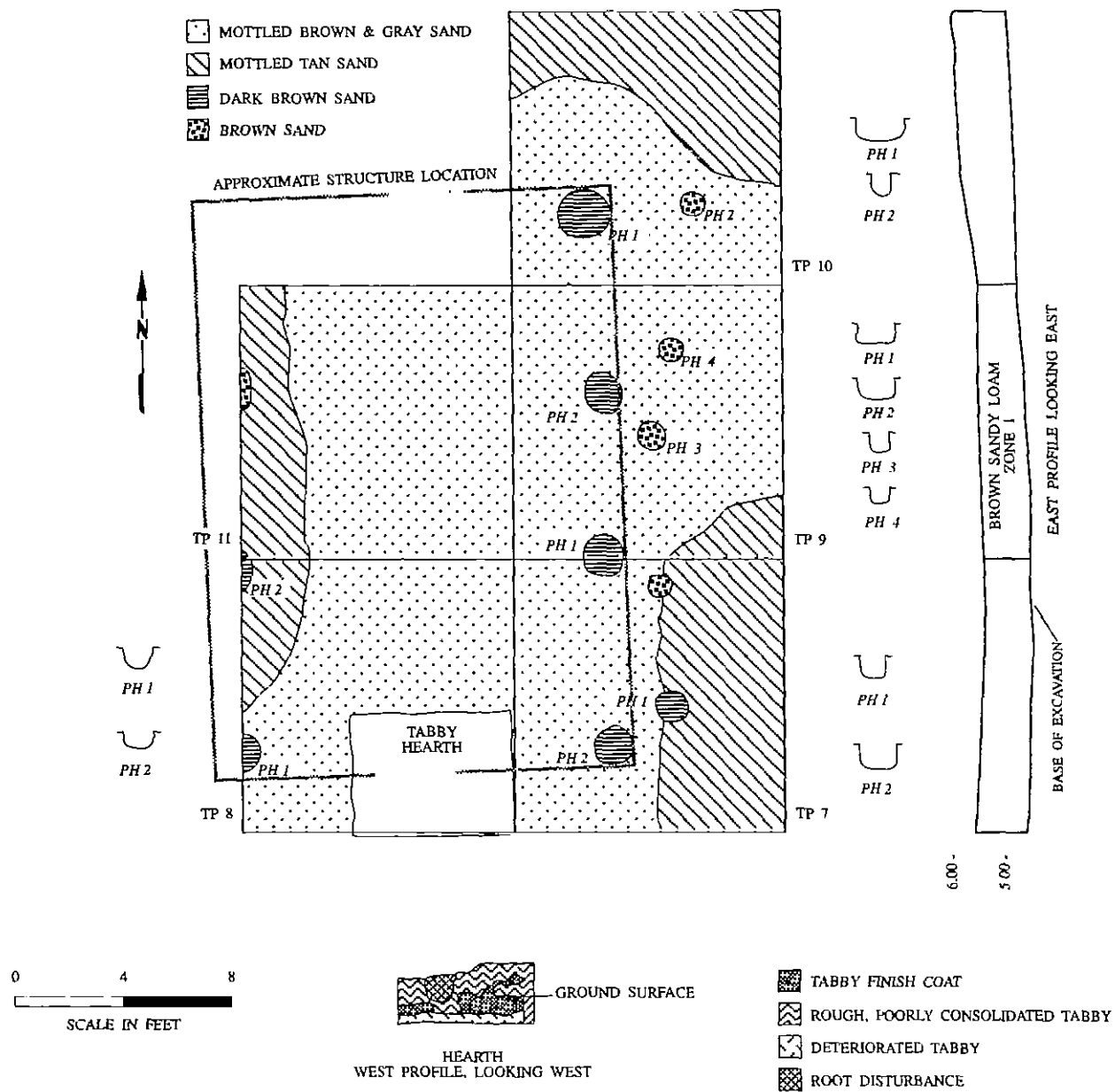


Figure 15. House excavations at Structure 2, 38BU323, southern slave row.

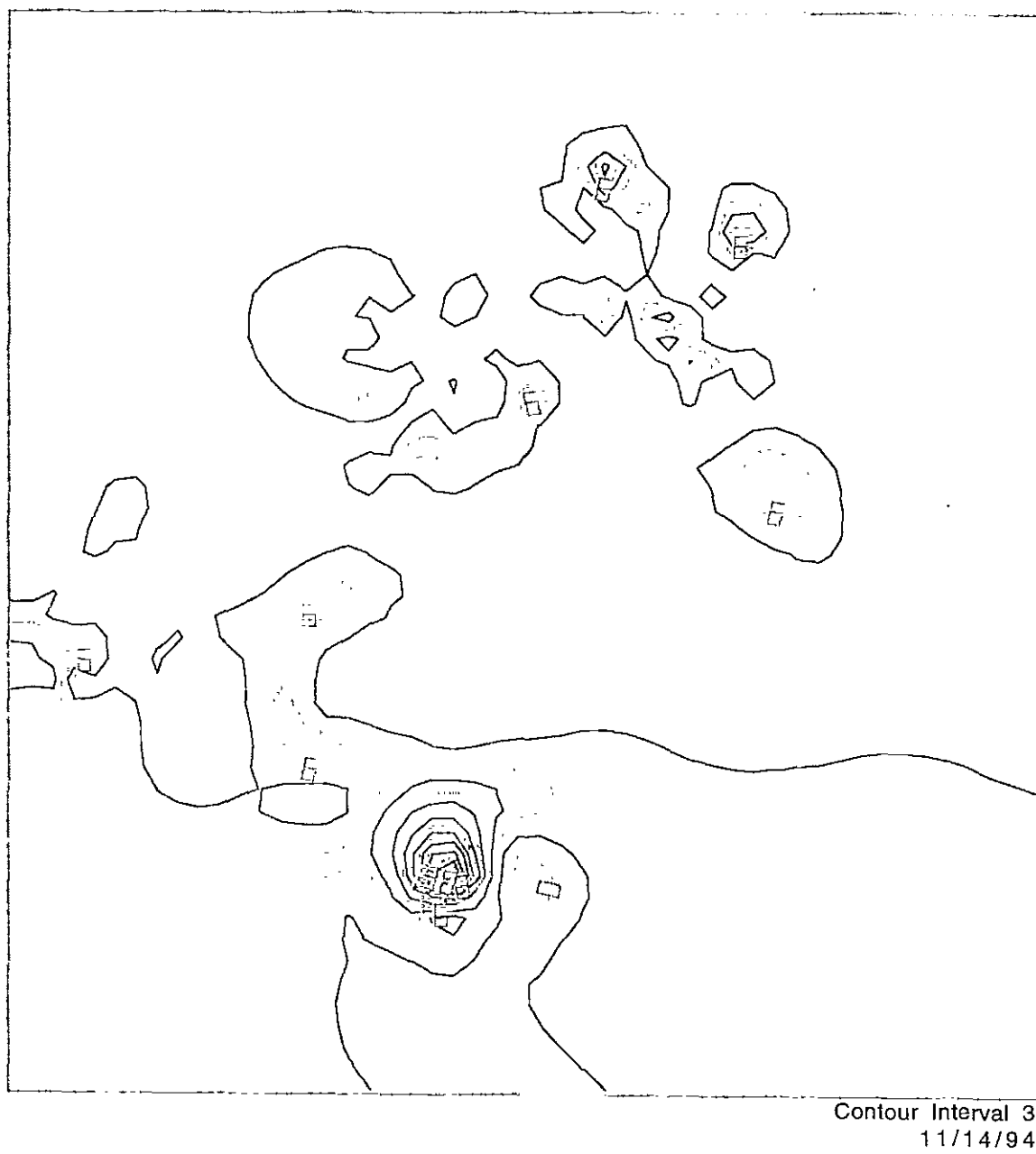


Figure 16. Artifact densities from 38BU323, northern slave row.

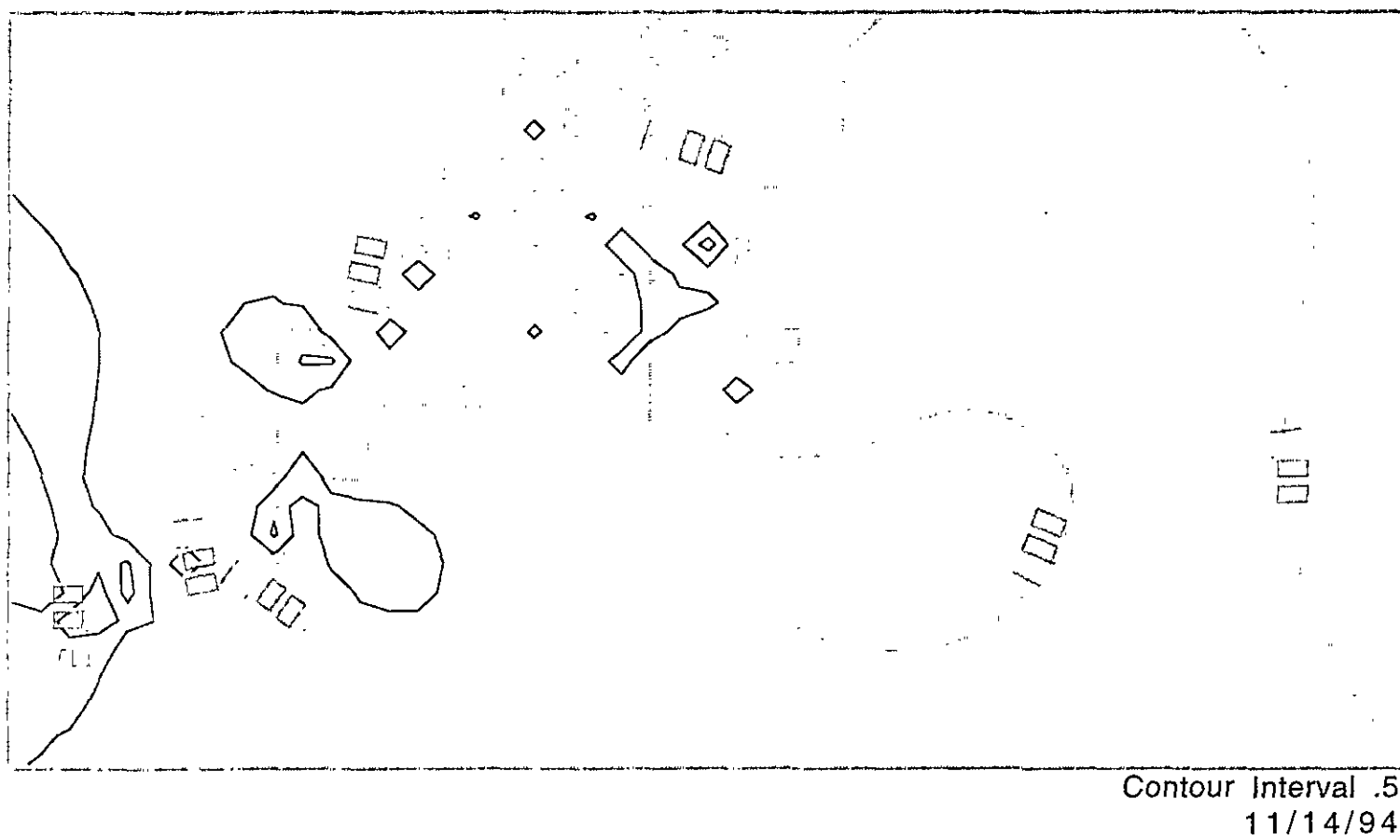


Figure 17. Shell densities from 38BU323, northern slave row.

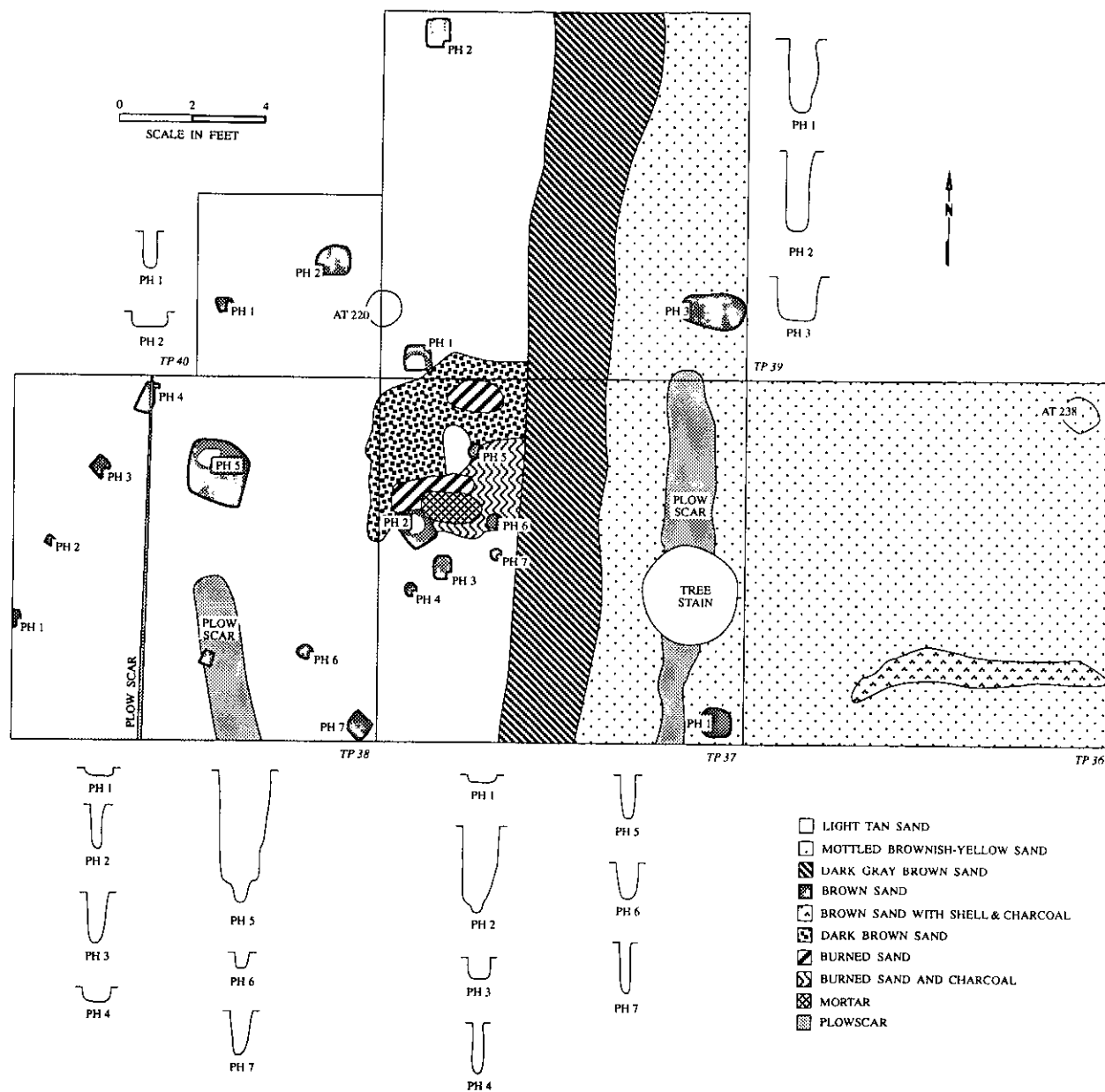


Figure 18. Excavations in the northern slave row, 38BU323.

The ditch feature (Feature 3) runs roughly grid north-south across two 10 foot units and measures about 3.4 feet wide and was about 1.0 foot deep. The feature contained large artifacts, suggesting that the ditch existed when the trash was deposited (as opposed to being deposited secondarily). However, the ditch appears to intrude into the hearth feature (Feature 4) which indicates that these structural remains are earlier. Analysis of the artifacts from Features 3 and 4 will aid in determining sequence of events.

The hearth was evidenced by the presence of burnt sand and charcoal surrounding two remnant patches of tabby mortar. Charcoal remains and the surrounding matrix were collected for flotation. Several posts intruded into the feature including one containing both a post hole and a post mold. This post is in line with two similar posts. The small size of the post molds suggest that the structures were not substantial and are probably associated with some sort of outbuilding.

A fence line was found west of the hearth area and consist of small square, relatively shallow stains. None of the additional posts were clearly associated with the hearth feature. It is possible that plowing has obliterated evidence of these posts. However, ph 5 in Test Pit 28 may be large enough to have been a foundation support. One of the plowscars was excavated to determine if a post and trench foundation was present. Excavation of one of the plowscars revealed no additional post holes and it was determined that the feature was, indeed, a plowscar.

Artifacts in these investigations dated primarily to the mid nineteenth century. Based on these artifacts, it appears that this settlement was abandoned sometime in the late nineteenth century, before the southern settlement was abandoned. This could explain the number of features intruding into the hearth feature as the settlement's function changed after the war.

### Summary

Although the results of the data recovery efforts cannot be summarized since the analysis has not been conducted, it is possible to evaluate some aspects of the work. For example, the excavations implemented changed somewhat from those originally proposed. These changes were due primarily to the close interval auger testing which allowed us to get a better grasp on the features visible to us during the survey as well as to identify new areas of interest. As a result, these changes were not detrimental to the project, but rather allowed us to maximize our time and our interpretive ability.

These excavations focussed on three areas: the main house complex, the southern slave row, and the northern slave row. Auger testing and metal detection at the main house complex allowed us to determine the location of structural remains and features. Two block excavations were open which examined a utilitarian building and a bellum/postbellum well. The structure contained a continuous brick foundation with a probable wooden superstructure. A mortar floor was found approximately 1.0 foot below the level of the surrounding subsoil. Artifacts at the structure did not reflect a domestic occupation, but rather reflected a storage function (perhaps a commissary).

The second block excavation uncovered a well which was lined below the water table with planks associated with wooden posts. This method would allow water to seep in from the sides. Evidence for lining above the water table is lacking, but it is possible that a wooden barrel was used which totally deteriorated over time. Artifacts in the well were primarily structural, suggesting that when buildings were dismantled, structural refuse was thrown down the well. The artifacts date to the bellum/postbellum period.

Other excavations in the main house complex focussed on landscape features, the disarticulated eroding tabby wall fragment, and an artifact concentration.

At the southern slave row, two structures were examined. Both had gabled end tabby chimneys and were supported on wooden posts. The structures measured 10 by 15 feet and 13 by 19 feet in size. Adjacent

shell middens were examined which contained few kitchen related artifacts such as ceramics, bottle glass, and animal bone. This is unusual for slave middens which normally contain abundant kitchen related garbage. Artifacts dated to the mid 19th century, with some dating perhaps to the turn of the century.

Excavations in the northern slave row, revealed intensive use of the area. The basal remnants of a tabby hearth were uncovered associated with a structure which appears to have been abandoned some time in the mid nineteenth century. A fence line was also found in the western portion of the excavations. Post holes and a drainage ditch intrude into this feature suggesting that the structure was torn down and the function of the settlement may have changed.

## **EXCAVATIONS AT 38BU821**

### **Research Goals**

A number of research questions were posed before and during excavations at 38BU821. During the 1987 survey, shovel testing revealed dense shell midden with artifacts dating from the Savannah through the Deptford phases. There was also a light scatter of historic materials probably related to the occupation of 38BU323. Research questions at 38BU821 consisted of:

- How well do close interval auger tests (10 foot intervals) reveal the location of discrete middens and artifact concentrations;
- What do the locations of these concentrations suggest about intra-site spatial patterning;
- How did site use change through time; and
- During what seasons was the site occupied?

### **Field Methods**

#### **Introduction**

The site was subjected to bush hogging before any excavations were begun. This allowed easy access to all parts of the site and provided for easier gridding.

The site was tied into a permanent grid to provide both horizontal and vertical control. Vertical control was tied to a Southeastern Survey marker located in the vicinity of the old dock remains. The marker is at an elevation of 6.93 mean sea level (MSL). The grid was oriented with magnetic north.

#### **Proposed Excavations**

Two weeks of investigations were scheduled for the investigation of 38BU821. These investigations were to include investigation of midden areas (for evidence of floral and faunal remains, artifact content, and intra-site patterning) and non-midden areas (for evidence of structural remains or occupation zones).

#### **Implemented Excavations**

As discussed in the previous section, in consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the work at 38BU821 was reduced to one week to provide time for the excavation of the well feature at 38BU323. The reasoning behind the reduction of work as opposed to green spacing the well was that 38BU821 had been occupied for a long period of time and it was believed that individual middens would not likely be distinct. As a result, several of the research questions may be impossible to address.

To maximize our understanding of the site, a 10 foot interval auger test grid was laid over the site, and a total of 186 auger tests were excavated and screened. After field density maps were completed, three 10 foot units were placed in areas of dense artifact remains and low shell content with the belief that these areas may yield discrete datable features (Figures 19, 20, and 21).

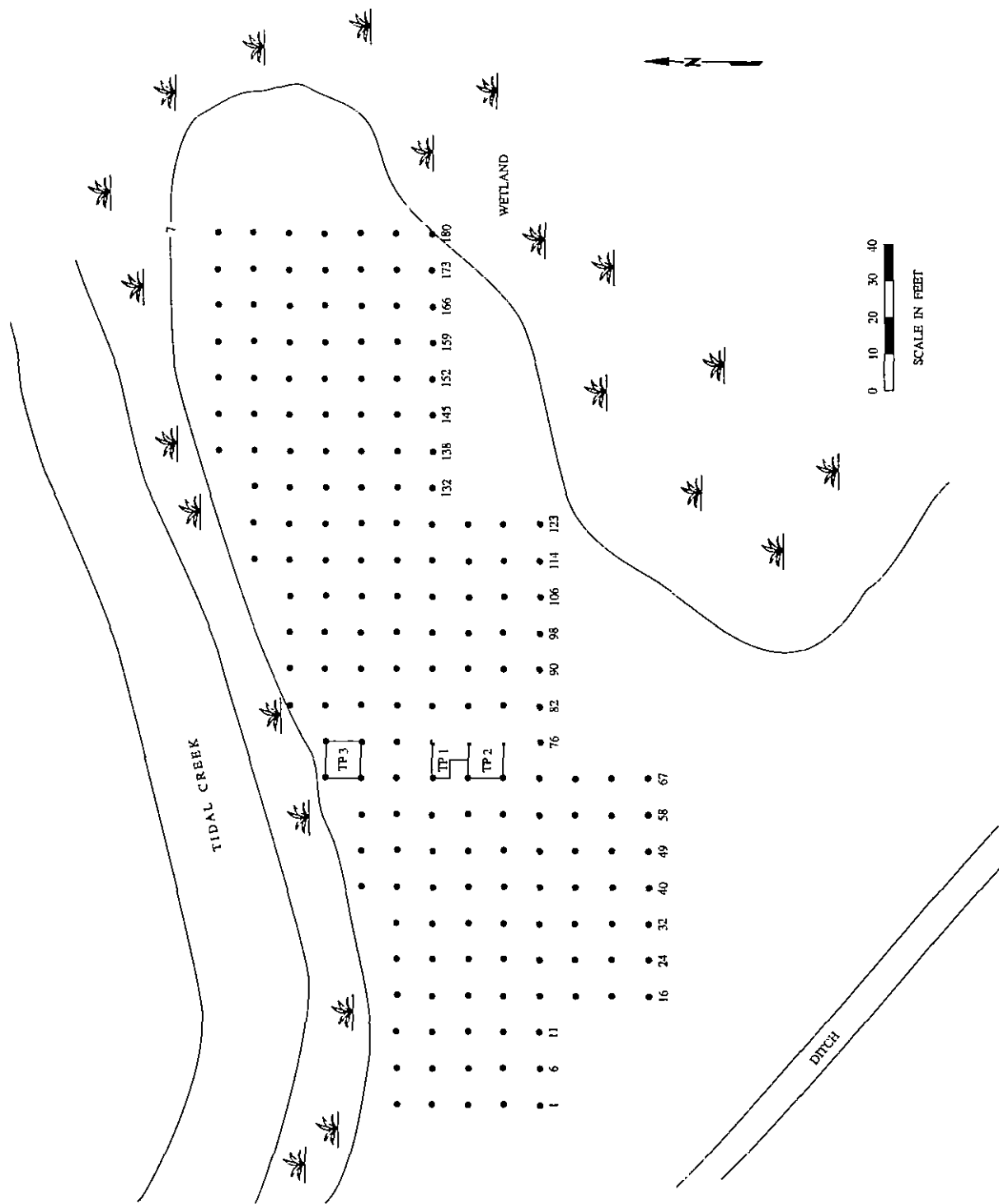


Figure 19. Location of auger tests and excavation units at 38BU821.



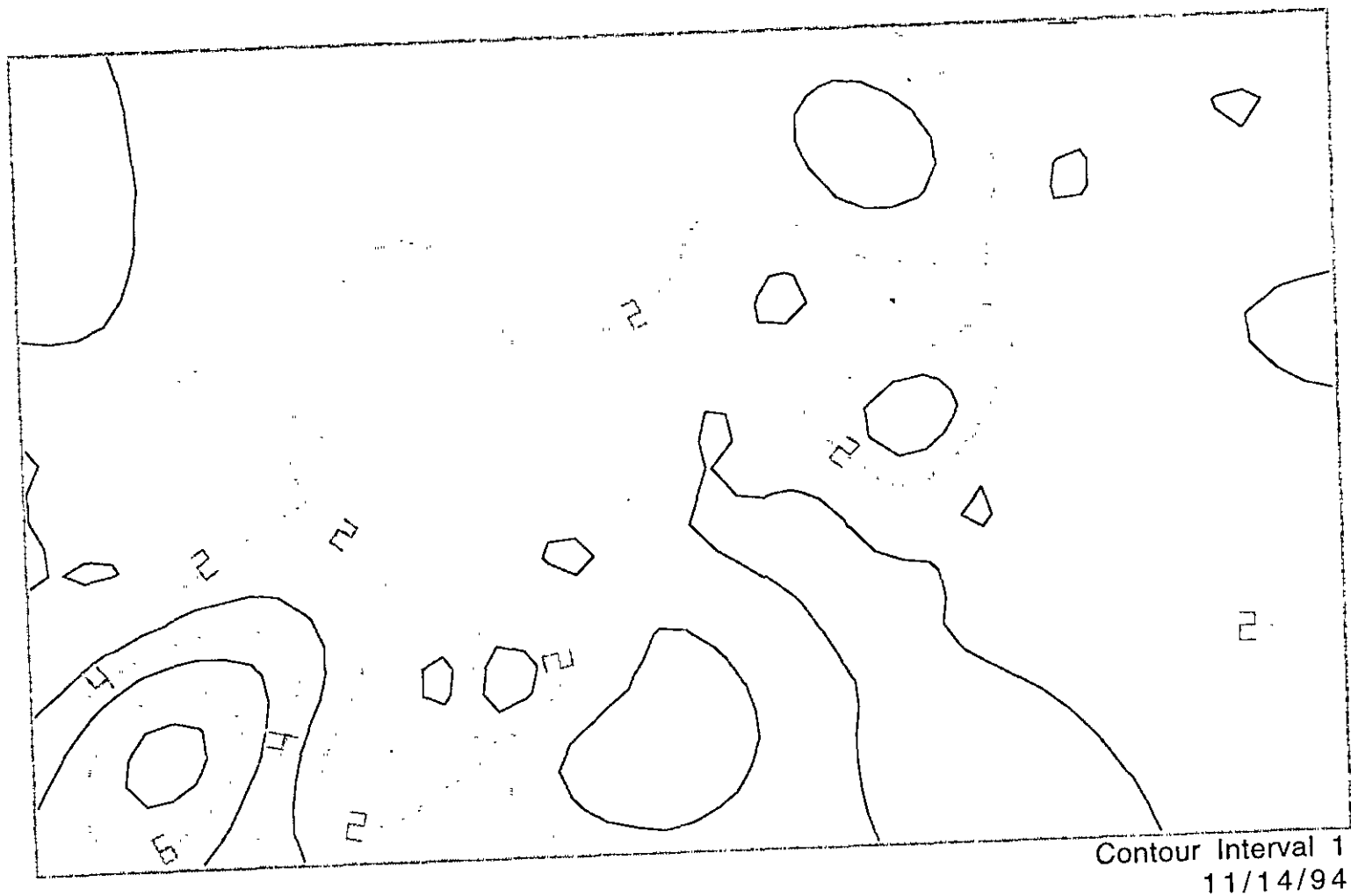
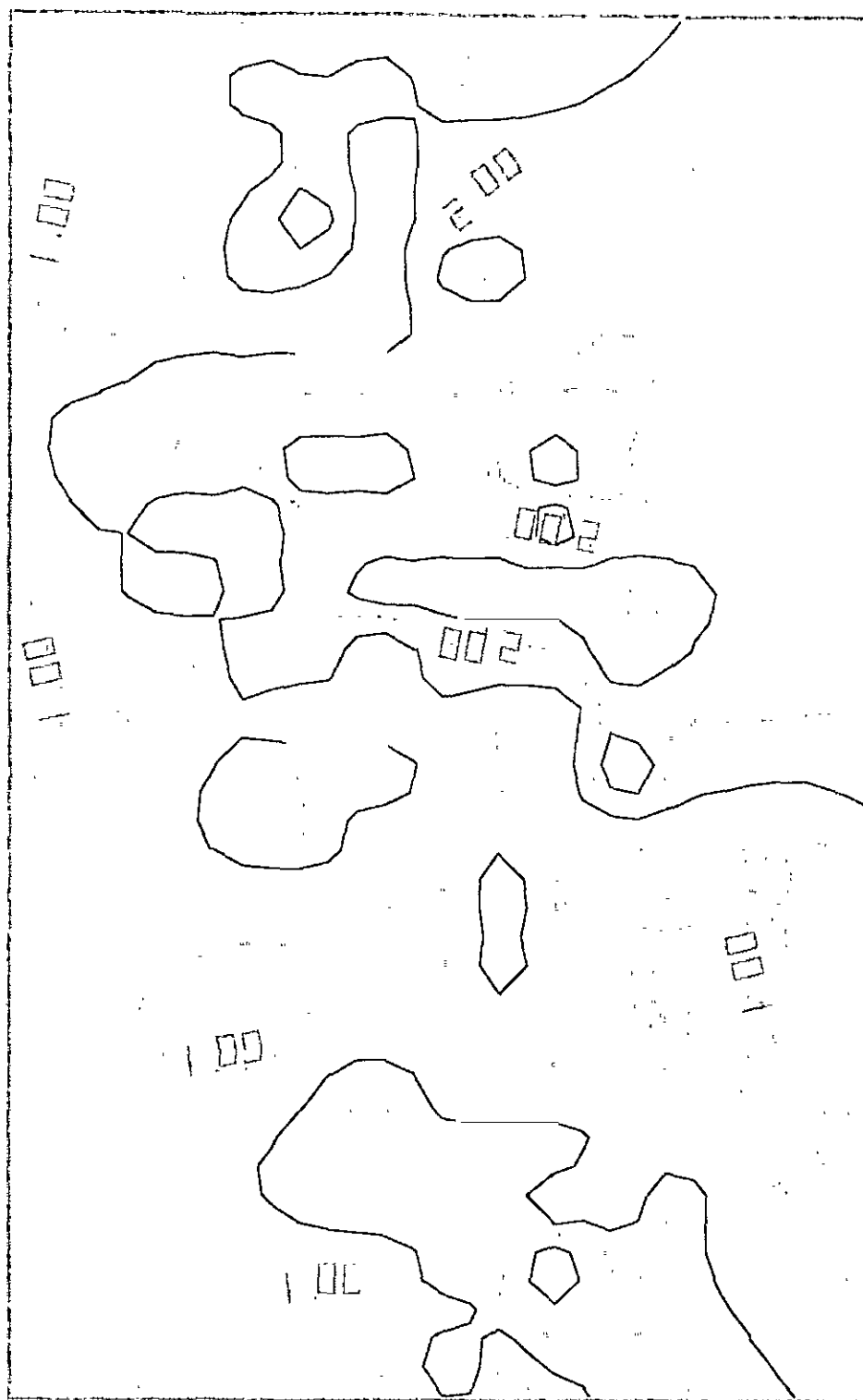


Figure 20. Artifact densities from 38BU821.



Contour Interval .5  
11/14/94

Figure 21. Shell densities from 38BU821.

## Methodology

The auger test grid was oriented with magnetic north and tied into the site grid at 38BU323. Excavations were tied into this grid.

Excavations were conducted using gross natural stratigraphic zones. Only one zone was present during excavations. The zone (Zone 1) consisted of a dark brown loamy sand with varying amounts of shell. None of the soils contained sufficient shell to categorize it as midden, and the shell present was generally crushed as if the area had once been plowed. This level was found to a depth of 0.6 to 0.8 feet.

Flotation samples (typically 5 gallons in size) were to be collected from areas which exhibited a high potential for the recovery of ethnobotanical remains. Shell was weighed, and discarded, in the field. In addition, pollen samples were taken from areas of the site which appeared protected and undisturbed.

All fill was screened minimally through ¼-inch mesh. In addition, because of heavy rains during the project, most of the soils were water screened. Since no dense midden areas were investigated, no shell column samples were obtained.

After excavation, each unit was trowelled at the top of subsoil. All units were plotted and photographed (in black and white negative and color slide film) as well as all features (i.e. pits and post holes) encountered during the excavations. Profile and plan views were drawn of each unit.

Features were bisected to provide profiles, photographs, and drawings, and feature fill was screened through ⅛-inch mesh and samples were taken for water flotation.

Chicora also used pH neutral, alkaline-buffered paper for field notes. Photographic materials will be processed to archival permanence. Standard forms, such as daily reports, level forms, photographic forms, and feature forms were used to maintain site information.

Excavations were backfilled at the conclusion of the project through the use of heavy equipment provided by the client. During the project, excavation units were covered with black plastic. A total of 142.5 person hours were spent at the site resulting in the excavation of 275 square feet or 215 cubic feet. As a result 1122 pounds of shell were recovered. An additional 25 person hours were spent in the field laboratory processing artifacts.

## Findings

Although this management summary has been prepared immediately upon completion of the field work, it is possible to offer general comments concerning some areas of research. Density maps from the site revealed that artifacts and shell concentrate in a 150 by 120 foot area (Figures 20 and 21). Unfortunately, the bulk of the shell was in diffuse scatters of what appears to be plowed midden. In addition, artifacts were sparse and isolated. As a result, one concentration in a clearly non-midden area was selected for excavation.

Two contiguous ten foot squares were placed in this area revealing only a few posts with no clear indication of a structure (Figure 22). Artifacts were very sparse, suggesting that if this area represented a "concentration" of artifacts that very few remains would be found throughout the site. As a result, a ten foot unit was placed intuitively north of these excavations adjacent to the tidal creek (Figure 23).

Here, shell was somewhat denser, but artifact quantities remained low. At the base of excavations, a pot bust was encountered along and into the south profile. Some of the sherds were quite large, suggesting that this area of the site was undisturbed. The pot bust consisted of a St. Catherine's Cord Marked vessel. Beneath the pot

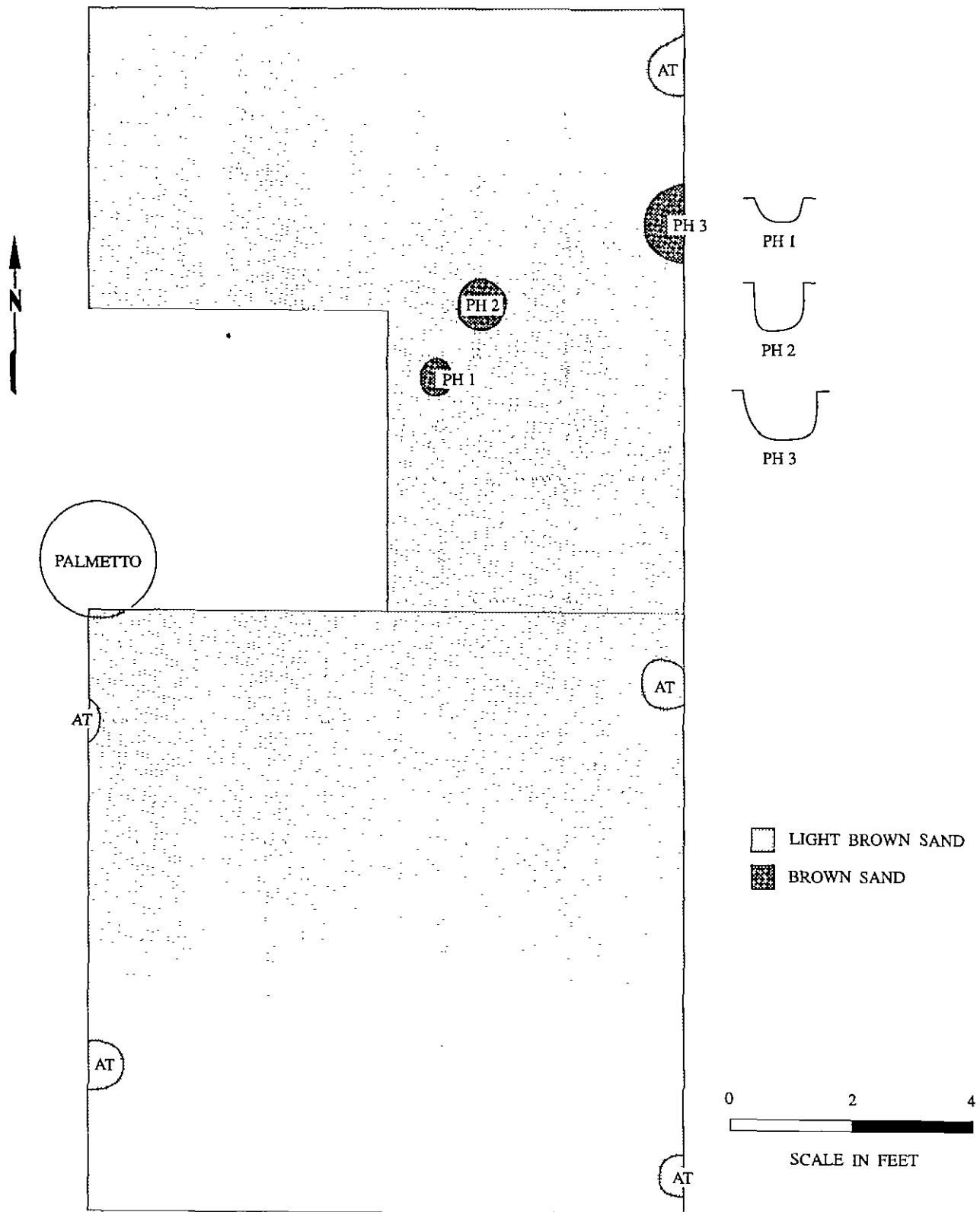


Figure 22. Plan of TPs 1 and 2, 38BU821.

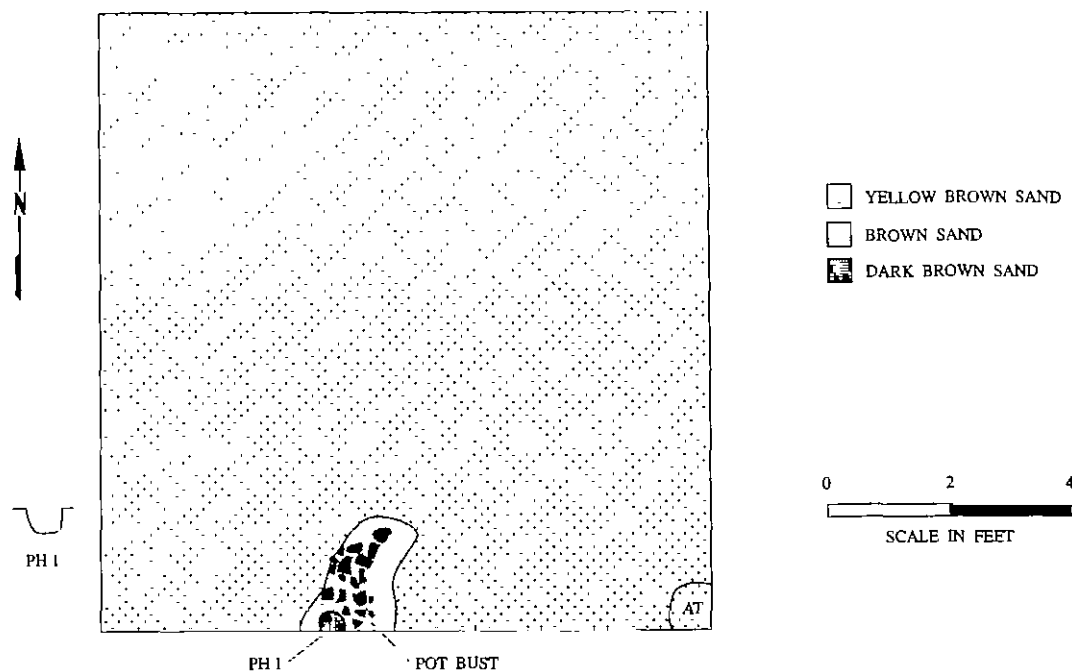


Figure 23. Plan of TP3, 38BU821.

bust was a post hole.

### Summary

The investigations at 38BU821 indicated a disturbed mixed context site with a broad scatter of shell and few artifacts. No structural remains (beyond isolated post holes) were encountered and no shell pits were located (although a shell pit was examined in the ditch profile during the survey). This suggests that the primary function of the site was a staging ground for shellfishing and processing.

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